

News

COVID-19: North Middlesex University Hospital boss provides update

Page 3

News

Haringey Council announces emergency fund for residents

Page 4

Community

North London Community Consortium forms to meet local need in the borough

Page 10

Feature

Tottenham MP, David Lammy outlines his vision of justice in latest book, Tribes

Page 14

TOTTENHAM COMMUNITY PRESS

tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk
facebook.com/tottenhamcp

T @tottenhamcp
E tcp@socialspider.com

May 2020
Nº.34, Free

Local news that matters to you

Local fashion social enterprise makes medical scrubs for NHS



Fashion Enter

By Luchia Robinson

Textile workers in Tottenham are playing an instrumental role in equipping NHS staff with medical scrubs.

Fashion Enter – a social enterprise based in Harringay ward, makes garments and teaches technical fashion skills to local women.

It has won a contract to make 10,000 sets of scrubs (a V-neck top and a pair of elasticated trousers) for the NHS, with an additional 12,000 pairs of trousers.

Approximately 4,000 medical scrub garments (2,000 sets) are made within a four-day period. Fashion Enter aims to increase the rates of production so that 20,000

garments can be produced in a week.

“We can take any woman who just has an interest in stitching, and we can give her skills to make her own clothes, or start her own brand. We’ve helped so many people in Haringey, so many disadvantaged [women] who have lost confidence. We all get that curve ball in life where life goes wrong

and you lose your confidence, and self-esteem,” said Jenny Holloway, CEO, Fashion Enter.

“We’re just very proud to be doing our bit – [we] are delighted to be supporting the NHS.”

The current demand for medical scrubs and PPE [Personal Protective Equipment] is high, but supply is short, as channels of distribution have been greatly challenged because of the outbreak of the virus. Criticisms have been widely levelled at the government for a lack of preparedness regarding national stock levels and its unsteady supply.

“It was very clear with the outbreak of COVID-19 that there was going to be issues in the supply chain,” said Jenny.

“This is quite a dynamic, moving situation, and at the moment we are happy making the scrubs – we know they’re lovely, and they’re made with love from Tottenham.” The scrubs, (which are made from a heavy polycotton, with three-pocket detailing), are sent to an intermediary who then packs and delivers them to NHS warehouses, before they are distributed to various NHS trusts across the country.

A North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust spokesperson said: “We have worked hard with our staff, suppliers and partners to ensure that we have sufficient PPE

“We’re just very proud to be doing our bit”

at the right time in the right places for the right people. Our clinical teams and our support staff – particularly the ‘unsung heroes’ in our stores and distribution department – have done a tremendous job in difficult circumstances over the past couple of months.

“We maintain close scrutiny on stock levels, usage, and requirements, to ensure this valuable resource is deployed appropriately, ensuring Team North Mid can deliver patient care safely. We also maintain close communication with our staff to answer any queries and have the information as well as the equipment to carry out their vital roles.”

North Mid is grateful to receive scrubs for their microbiology specialists who normally wear their own clothes to work.

“One aspect of ensuring all equipment is available when and where it is needed – not just during the current pandemic, but as a principle for everyday – has been supporting our staff to keep work clothes and home clothes separate.”



WELCOME

Steadfast In Difficulties

May 2020
N°. 34

At Tottenham Community Press we believe that Tottenham deserves a newspaper that is written by and for local people, and which celebrates community in all its diversity.

We believe that local news brings people together around the issues that matter most to them and ensures everyone can have a voice in local decision-making. Now more than ever we believe that the media should be responsive and accountable to the community it serves

Publisher

David Floyd

Editor

Luchia Robinson

Designer

Jonathan Duncan

Head of Community News Operations

Paige Ballmi

Head of Advertising and Membership

Klaudia Kiss

Head of Engagement

Penny Dampier

Contributors

Stephen Furner, James Cracknell, Simon Allin, Pat Devereaux, Harry Godfrey, Karin Lock, Kaz Foncette, Tottenham Foodbank, Northumberland Park Cllrs, Terry Egan, Bella Saltiel, Keith Hubbard

Members

Lynda Jessopp, Michael Buchanan, Susie Fairweather, Peter Corley, Ole Hedemann, Andrew Leimdorfer, Amanda Lillywhite, Slimming World Enfield and Tottenham, Caesar Gordon, Susan Moyse, Cherry McAskill, Tina Hutber Ed Anderton, Karin Lock, Sarah Moore, Robert Lindsay-Smith, Alice Kemp-Habib



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

Email tcp@socialspider.com
Phone 020 8521 7956



St Ann's Church Credit Stephen Furner

Hello, welcome to issue 34. We head into May, many of us still adjusting to what is now a new way of living. The global Coronavirus outbreak was unexpected, and so much remains unknown, but locally there are people in our community doing what they can to offer support.

Karin Lock looks at how the North London Community Consortium is meeting local need (p.10) and she also reviews, the book, *The Rules of Contagion* on p.15. Tottenham Foodbank assesses the impact of COVID-19 (p.11), and our first councillor's column focusses on some of the initiatives taking place in Northumberland Park ward (p.11).

Get in touch to share your new experiences of Tottenham: tcp@socialspider.com

Luchia Robinson
Editor

My name is Harry and I am an architect (and keen amateur photographer) living in Tottenham Hale.

I've lived in North London since 2006 and moved to Tottenham in 2015.

Whilst I really love the culture, and food and drink scene Tottenham has to offer, I also like exploring some of the quieter areas of Tottenham too – particularly for photographing older industrial estates and buildings, the River Lea Canal, wetlands and marshes etc. As an architect I'm fascinated with what makes the essence of a place, and particularly in Tottenham, how new building developments choose to integrate (or not) with their context.

Even more so in current times, community means trying to look out for people, being courteous and respectful to others, and making the effort to support local people in whatever ways you can. It is about

taking pride in the place where you live.

I think things like the success of crowdfunding initiatives for places like Craving Coffee, people trying to buy from local businesses during lock-down, and some of the neighbourly support groups I have witnessed really encapsulate the great community here in Tottenham.

Harry Godfrey
Contributor

My name is Pat Devereaux. I am a former *Guardian* editor and currently a freelance journalist, writer, and book publishing editor. I also consult and evaluate various projects as well as teach journalism classes.

I live and work in Tottenham and have done for over ten years. I have been involved in many neighbourhood community projects including: Tottenham Thinking

Space, Mapping Tottenham project and They Came Before Us heritage Collage Arts project.

I love the area and its diverse community. I enjoy walking in the parks, as well as exploring different sections of Tottenham and studying the history of the area. I also enjoy the art warehouse culture and Latin Village. It's an excitingly vibrant area.

Community to me means getting involved and caring about your environment and caring for each other in a humane way. Accepting the diversity of each other and helping one another to thrive especially in a time of COVID-19.

I think that *Tottenham Community Press* is playing a vital role in helping to maintain this community and enabling it to understand the dynamics beneath the surface.

Pat Devereaux
Contributor

NEWS

Hospital chief warns against 'second wave' of virus

The impact of Coronavirus on North Mid Hospital



By James Cracknell

The boss of North Middlesex University Hospital has thanked local residents for their support during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying staff there have worked in an “emotionally and physically taxing environment” over the past few weeks.

Maria Kane, chief executive of the NHS trust that runs the Edmonton hospital, said the darkest days were likely over but urged people to continue following government guidelines to help avoid a “second wave” of coronavirus infections.

She said: “At the peak we had 13 wards for patients who were COVID-19 positive, but this has come down now to eight. We have had so many people treated here who have been able to go back home and that is really positive.”

As a hospital in outer London, where COVID-19 spread faster than other areas, there was a rapid increase in admissions at the end of March, building to a peak around 6th April. In total there were 234 coronavirus deaths

at North Mid up to the end of April.

“We were hit quite hard quite early on. It didn't end up being as bad as some predictions, but compared to our usual intensive care capacity of 18 beds, we had a surge of up to 41 beds at one point. It takes a huge amount of time to provide that capacity – each bed needs access to a ventilator, oxygen piping, and a whole range of staff.

“We started using side rooms but we soon ran out of space and we began to isolate different parts of the hospital, which became a huge job, on top of obtaining the PPE [personal protective equipment] we needed for infection control.”

Elective surgeries were postponed so that operating theatres could be utilised for COVID-19 patients, while visitors were banned from coming in to reduce their risk of contracting the virus.

“There is an impact on staff – they are seeing far more people die than they are used to seeing, it is far more intense. They are wearing kit that is quite heavy and restrictive and it becomes difficult for them logistically. It is an emotionally and physically taxing environment to work in.”

Support has come from unexpected places. Pilots and cabin crew, off work as planes were grounded, helped set up a “first class lounge” so staff could relax on their breaks. “They can talk through any stressful situations and have a bit of down time. It is really amazing.”

At the peak, nearly one third of North Mid's entire staff roster was signed off work, either because they were showing COVID-19 symptoms, their family members were showing symptoms, or because they were among one of the vulnerable groups being advised to self-isolate. Recently retired

staff were brought back to fill gaps, while other medical professionals were retrained to meet demand.

Many NHS workers from around the country have themselves died from the disease, and Maria said that sadly North Mid was no exception. Cheryl Williams, a housekeeper at the hospital for eleven years, died last month after contracting coronavirus. “We are devastated,” said Maria. “It is heart-breaking for us all.”

The battle to obtain the required amount of PPE has been a focus of government criticism during the pandemic. Maria said she was not aware of any staff at North-Mid being forced to wear improvised equipment while on the job, as has been seen at some hospitals.

“I will be honest and say the supply chain was quite sticky at the start, and we weren't sure what was coming in, but in the last few weeks it has really got better. We have always been able

to adhere to the guidelines [for wearing PPE].”

Another issue has been testing capacity. At the end of April a drive-through testing facility for key workers was opened at Lee Valley Athletics Centre in Pickett's Lock. For staff at North Mid, a testing centre is operating from Tottenham Hotspur Stadium –

which has also hosted temporary antenatal services, including ultrasounds, to help pregnant women avoid hospital.

Is Maria confident the worst is now over? “We have to be prepared for a potential second wave,” she warned. “This is such a new phenomenon. We are learning all the time

about how to treat it, and we are participating in a major research programme.

“The support and the good wishes we have received have been really heart-warming. The best thing people can do now is continue to stay at home – it is about short-term pain for long-term gain.”

“There is an impact on staff – they are seeing far more people die than they are used to seeing, it is far more intense”

Advertisement

Maria Kane,
CEO North
Middlesex
University
Hospital



Coronavirus Looking out for each other

You must stay at home, but there are ways to provide essential support to vulnerable people who are in isolation.

How you can help:

- phone or keep in touch on social media
- pick up food for others
- pick up medicines



NEWS

Haringey Council announces £8.1m emergency fund



Credit: Stephen Furner

Haringey Council has announced an £8.1million emergency response fund to provide urgent support for the borough's most vulnerable people, its businesses and key services during the coronavirus pandemic.

The £8.094m funding comes from the government's Budget (announced in March in response to COVID-19, which outlines £1.6bn for Local Authorities).

The COVID-19 Financial Intervention and Measures report – signed by Leader of Haringey Council, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor – recognises that the council will need to step in and provide essential support.

Haringey's use of the funds will include additional assistance to social care providers, supporting the CCG (Clinical

Commissioning Group) in discharging and keeping people out of hospital, processing increased benefit or hardship claims, and delivering food to the vulnerable.

The council is providing an initial £100,000 to fund vital food supplies for the next three months. This will be delivered alongside the food donations from residents, businesses and charities. Food items will be distributed, with support from Connected Communities, from central food hubs – such as those

located at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and Alexandra Palace.

Bonus payments will be made to home-carers, covering the months of May and June (and also last month). A full-time carer can expect up to a £1,000 bonus payment, and all carers in Haringey will receive the London Living Wage as soon as a new system, (announced earlier this year) can be introduced.

The council suspects that a national government scheme to support schools will be in place from the new school term, however, in the meantime it is providing

Hardship fund, which is initially being used to target residents in the council tax reduction scheme (CTRS). Reductions will automatically be applied where relevant. A further reduction of £150 on the annual tax bill will be given to all who are currently within the scheme. Where a taxpayer's liability for 2020-21 is, following the application of council tax support, less than £150, then their liability will be reduced to nil.

The council will also be providing a rent holiday (up to 3 months) for voluntary sector organisations operating from council owned buildings.

Cllr Joseph Ejiofor said: "We know the coronavirus outbreak is having a real impact on the lives of some of our most vulnerable residents. That is why

we are introducing extra measures to provide vital assistance, including for those in food poverty.

"By covering shortfalls in free school meals until the government scheme is up and running, and food aid for our community for the next three months, we hope we can reduce some of the pressure for families.

"We have also introduced a top-up scheme for our carers – their work is invaluable, supporting our most vulnerable people in their own homes. I can't thank them enough."

"By covering shortfalls in free School Meals and food aid for the next three months, we hope we can reduce some of the pressure for families"

short term food assistance to support children who usually receive free school meals.

The government has provided the council with around £56m of funding to support local businesses, which it is paying out as grants to small businesses and those in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. Organisations that are eligible to new business rate reliefs – many up to 100% for 2020/21, are now being re-billed.

Haringey has received more than £3.6m from the government's

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tottenham MP appointed to Shadow Cabinet

Tottenham MP, David Lammy has been appointed to the role of Shadow Secretary of State for Justice.

The appointment was made by Sir Keir Starmer, who became the leader of the Labour Party last month, following the resignation of previous leader, Jeremy Corbyn.

Mr Lammy said: "I am thrilled to be appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Justice. It is a great honour in these very challenging times.

"In this crisis, I am committed to providing constructive and responsible opposition in the national interest."

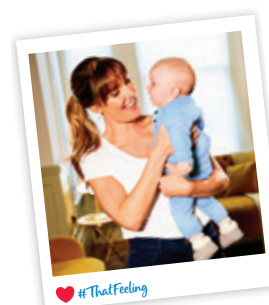
Help is available if you need it

Useful information

- **Haringey Council's Connected Communities:**
Call 20 8489 4431 (open Monday to Friday 8.30am–6.30pm)
- **The latest information council advice for residents:**
Visit haringey.gov.uk/news-and-events/haringey-coronavirus-covid-19-updates
Visit haringey.gov.uk/covid-19/i-want-help
- **For information about domestic violence services Haringey Domestic Abuse Helpline:**
Call 300 012 0213 (Monday to Friday, 10.30am–5.30pm)
Visit haringey.gov.uk/covid-19/council-services#domestic
Visit haringey.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/public-health/domestic-violence-and-abuse-and-violence-against-women-and-girls/get-help-and-advice
- **Mind In Haringey. Emotional and well-being support service:**
Visit mindinharingey.org.uk
Call 208 340 2474 (9–5pm, Monday to Friday)
Email dmin@mih.org.uk
- **Government advice relating to Coronavirus:**
Visit gov.uk/coronavirus
- **NHS advice:**
Visit nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19
- **The Samaritans. Listening support service, help available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year:**
Call 116 123 (free)
- **Shelter. Urgent housing advice, open every day. 8am–8pm on weekdays, 9am–5pm on weekends**
Call 0808 800 4444

Advertisement

Your Enfield and Tottenham Slimming World groups are now virtual



that
Slimming
World
feeling!

You can find details of your nearest consultant at: slimmingworld.co.uk

Residents criticise council's offer of housing on regeneration scheme

By Simon Allin,
Local Democracy Reporter

A residents' group on an estate slated for demolition as part of a major regeneration scheme has slammed the council's latest housing offer as confusing and not transparent.

TAG Love Lane – a group representing people in temporary accommodation on Love Lane Estate – want Haringey Council to guarantee they will receive permanent homes at social rent levels.

Their flats are set to be knocked down to make way for the 2,500-home High Road West scheme – and under Greater London Authority rules, a majority of residents have to vote 'yes' to demolition before it can go ahead.

Haringey Council wants to significantly increase the number of council-owned social-rent homes on the High Road West development and prioritise eligible non-secure tenants for new homes.

But TAG Love Lane claims there is no guarantee they will be offered homes at social rents, which are the lowest-cost type of housing.

TAG chair Joanna Morrison said: "The offer of secure tenancy for temporary accommodation residents might not actually be a council-rent home but instead a housing association flat at higher rent than council rent levels.

"Whatever the merits of the alleged offer, it is not legally binding. So, the deal from Haringey Council is 'agree to the demolition of your home and we might be able to offer something in the future.'

"The council are not being transparent. They want a 'yes' vote, but they are not being as transparent as they can be.

"I feel like none of the options given are very clear for temporary accommodation residents. It is still not going to say, 'you are going to get a new-build on the estate.' Everyone is still confused.

"If you vote 'no', they could discharge

their duty. If you vote 'yes', you may not get the property. At the end of the day, it is a money-making business."

Ms Morrison said many Love Lane residents had been on the borough's housing waiting list for years before being housed on the estate – without knowing it would eventually be demolished.

She added that if people were put into higher-cost private accommodation, they may find it hard to make ends meet. If they were then evicted, they would go back on the housing waiting list – and their long wait for housing would start again.

Haringey Council said its local lettings policy, if adopted, would provide a firm commitment to deliver new council homes for tenants living in temporary accommodation on the Love Lane Estate, as part of the delivery of High Road West.

It added that a consultation on the policy and a ballot will take place once it is possible to do so following the coronavirus crisis restrictions.

Cllr Emine Ibrahim, cabinet member for housing and estate renewal, said: "We have said from day one that we are working to get a positive resolution for temporary accommodation tenants on the Love Lane Estate.

"Some tenants were worried that when we redeveloped the area, there would be nothing for them. We are now working tirelessly to deliver extra council homes as part of the High Road West scheme.

"At the start of March, the council's cabinet agreed to consult those affected on a Local Lettings Policy, which includes an offer of a council-owned, social rent home at High Road West for non-secure tenants who have lived in temporary accommodation on the Love Lane Estate for at least a year. The offer is subject to the outcomes of the consultation and ballot.

"Our aim is to significantly increase the number of council-owned social rent homes and keep the existing community together."

Spurs to pay their non-playing staff in full

"We regret any concern caused during an anxious time"



Credit: Stephen Furner

Tottenham Hotspur has decided that their non-playing staff, whether full-time, casual or furloughed will receive 100% of their pay this month.

The club had come under scrutiny, when at the end of March, club chairman, Daniel Levy announced that Spurs would apply for the government's Coronavirus Job Reten-

tion Scheme (CJRS) – a financial support package designed to protect jobs and employment rights by ensuring those who cannot carry out their jobs from home, receive 80% of wages throughout April–June.

The club had listed the ceasing of their operations and high, annual costs for its reasoning to apply for the scheme, which

although ensures the non-playing staff (550 in total) have job security, means they effectively have to take a 20% pay cut.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor, wrote to Mr Levy last month, saying: "I am keen for Tottenham Hotspur to be financially sustainable after we emerge from this crisis, but I believe that it

would reinforce the commitment of the club to its staff, and indeed to the wider Haringey community if the club could look at ways to ensure that all furloughed staff have the 20% of their wages topped up by the club."

Local MPs, David Lammy (Tottenham) and Catherine West (Hornsey and Wood Green), were also among some of the people who criticised Spurs for opting to pursue the government aid, when, with the world's eighth largest club buy revenue (according to a Deloitte survey), they are in a position not to do so.

Spurs recent decision to no longer

apply for the compensation scheme, means that only the club's board members will now take salary reductions.

Daniel Levy said: "It was never our intent, as custodians, to do anything other than put measures in place to protect jobs whilst the club sought to continue to operate in a self-sufficient manner during uncertain times.

"We regret any concern caused during an anxious time and hope the work our supporters will see us doing in the coming weeks, as our stadium takes on a whole new purpose, will make them proud of their club."

Advertisement

LICENSING ACT 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that **JRF LIMITED** have applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Haringey for a Premises Licence to permit:

LATE NIGHT REFRESHMENT SELLING OF PIZZA BETWEEN 23:00–05:00

for the premises **PIZZA IMPERO**. Situated at: **38A WIGHTMAN ROAD HARRINGAY LONDON N4 1RU**

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at Licensing Team, Level 1, River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green, London N22 8HQ

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice in writing to the London Borough of Haringey, Licensing team at the above address, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: **26/05/2020**

Copies of all valid representations must include your name and address and will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authorities Sub Committee, these will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations can be emailed to: **licensing@haringey.gov.uk**

Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to £5000 under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.

Dated: 29/04/2020

NEWS

Spurs stadium repurposed

Tottenham Hotspur stadium becomes a clinical hub, and a food distribution point throughout the COVID-19 health crisis



Tottenham stadium has been repurposed to support the NHS with its activities, as well as members of the local community who are in need of vital food supplies.

Part of the stadium has been equipped to become a drive-through COVID-19 testing and swabbing centre for NHS staff, families and their dependents (accommodating up to 70 individuals being tested each day).

Recent transformations and fittings include:

- North Middlesex Hospital's Women's Outpatient Services

- A welfare area for visitors and NHS staff.
- A Maternal Day Unit
- Consultation and scanning rooms

Maria Kane, Chief Executive of North Middlesex University Hospital, said: "We are so grateful to Tottenham Hotspur for providing their wonderful facilities for our staff, patients, and local community during these difficult times."

In addition to offering clinical services, the football stadium's basement car park is being used as a storage base by the London Food Alliance (which was set up by the capital's three largest food sur-



plus distributors; The Felix Project, FareShare and City Harvest). Local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations, including Edible London, are also part of coordinating the distribution of food to those most vulnerable in the community.

Each borough council is creating surplus food hubs, and both Spurs stadium and Alexandra Palace are serving as Haringey's distribution points.

Hundreds of volunteers are distributing the food into the community on a daily basis, and the council has also deployed civil enforcement officers (parking

wardens) to help with this.

Edible London founder, Sunny Karagozlu, said: "Edible London have been doing this for two and a half years, but the amount of beneficiaries has now increased vastly.

"Now we've joined forces with Haringey Council and are able to reach loads more people. This is Haringey showing teamwork makes the dream work. Big love to everyone."

The distribution teams are following health and safety protocols while working in line with government guidelines on COVID-19. Staff are required to be two metres apart and to wear Personal

Protective Equipment (PPE) at all times – PPE is disposed of at the end of each day to avoid cross contamination.

The Council is not asking for donations from individuals because of the government rules on social distancing and non-essential travel. However, they are welcoming contributions from businesses or VCS organisations, particularly dry and tinned foods and essential household items such as sanitary and cleaning products.

Cllr Joseph Ejiofor, Leader of Haringey Council, said: "I'm inspired by the generosity of our community, who have stepped up so quickly to help."

"By working together we're ensuring food can get to hundreds of households who need it most. With even more volunteers, we hope we'll be able to support thousands, so please do get in touch if you can help."

If your business is able to support with immediate donations please:

Email connectedcommunities@haringey.gov.uk

If you are an individual able to offer short or longer term support please:

Visit haringey.gov.uk/covid-19/i-want-help
Visit haringeygiving.org.uk/

Residents protest against 'unsafe' construction work



By Pat Devereaux

Furious local residents have staged a second, socially distanced, protest against ongoing construction at a nearby building site.

The site in West Green was closed

after their initial protest in March, but building work recommenced again last month.

A dispute about "unsafe work conditions and the lack of pay for self-employed builders" erupted again after Tottenham residents, living in lockdown, watched as construction workers continued to arrive to work on the building site, where homes by property developer, Pocket Living are being built.

HG Construction (HGC) reopened the site at Appletree Road, stating they had been closely reviewing the government updated guidelines on construction work and the Construction Leadership Council Site Operating Procedures (CLC SOP).

In response irate Tottenham residents emailed Haringey councillors, Pocket Living and HGC site managers, campaigning on social media, as 'keeping [within

the recommended] two metre distance on a construction site is impossible.'

Simon Hester, a local resident, whose property overlooks the development said: "Safety protocols and operating procedures are clearly not being adhered to. These developers are not implementing disease control measures."

Another resident, Jude Taw, said: "There is also a strain to public transport getting construction workers to the site, when it should be empty for key workers to get safe distance between commuters."

The Tottenham residents, Keston Action Group (KAG) see the construction work as a health threat to their community. They do not view the construction of the homes to be essential work.

Writing in an email to Pocket Living and HGC, Keston Road resident,

Rod Wells said: 'I can see from my garden, workers who are not practicing any kind of social distancing - putting themselves, and everybody they come into contact with, at risk of spreading the coronavirus.'

'I therefore request that you immediately suspend all work activities on your site and instruct your staff to stay at home, on full pay, until the emergency is lifted.'

Both HGC and Pocket Living responded to the April protest, (which saw masked, begoggled, protesters greeting the construction workers with placards), stating they were working to government guidelines on social distancing.

In reply to The Pocket Living CEO, Marc Vlessing, Hester wrote: 'As a highly profitable property development company, you certainly have the resources to take the necessary and socially responsible action.

Please tell me that Pocket Living is not just another profiteering operation that treats its workers badly.'

In a Tweeted response to the protest, Haringey Liberal Democrat Councillor, Tammy Palmer said: "It is an appalling situation to have a non-essential building site open, with no consideration to workers who can't follow social distancing rules, Pocket Living I urge you to close this site immediately."

Responding to the residents' outrage, West Green Labour Councillor, Seema Chandwani, said: "The Local Authority will engage with construction companies to highlight the latest guidance in terms of social distancing and safe working practices, however our main responsibility is the enforcement of business closures and social distancing within commercial premises."

NEWS

Frocking Cancer Diary

Staying at home can save
a cancer patients lifePage
10

Craving Coffee Credit Ten 87 Studios



Local businesses fight to survive post lockdown

Businesses locked out of claiming vital funds

By Luchia Robinson

Many businesses across Haringey are struggling to stay afloat because of the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak.

Income has become very limited for a lot of small and medium sized businesses, and in some cases, it has stopped completely. Although government grants and loans have been announced to help businesses in need of support, many have found that they are ineligible to access them.

Haringey Council's £56m grant funding for small businesses is only payable if the business pays Business Rates directly to the council, which not all do. Landlords can apply for Business Rates relief (many up to 100% for 2020/21), but such relief or grants may not necessarily make a difference to the actual business owner, because landlords are not required to pass them on. Matthew and Rachel Ho run the café, Craving Coffee, in Markfield Road. They say: "We currently aren't eligible to apply for the small business relief grants that were announced by the government, because we are one of many in a multi-occupancy site who pays rates to a landlord, and not directly to the council. This rules us out."

"Although a lot of work is being done to overcome this for all affected, there are no guarantees. We do have extra insurance protection that may cover us for the pandemic, however, the whole process is moving very slowly (not through lack of trying) and there

are still no guarantees that we'll get any pay-out, or whether it will be enough if we do."

Haringey Lib Dem Leader Cllr Liz Morris has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hons Rishi Sunak MP, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local government, Rt Hons Robert Jenrick MP, asking for financial help to be extended to support businesses in shared premises.

Cllr Morris said: "Just because you pay

your business rates to your landlord shouldn't mean that you miss out on vital help. We will lose the creative and vibrant soul of this borough if a technicality stops these businesses accessing vital funding." "The government must remember that this taxpayer money is to support jobs and businesses, not to line landlord's pockets."

Downhills Park Café finds itself in an altogether different, but increasingly precarious

Downhills Park Café Credit Emmanuel Baah



"We will lose the creative and vibrant soul of this borough if a technicality stops these businesses accessing vital funding"



Neri Gun Credit Emmanuel Baah

situation. Owner, Neri Gun said: There are far more restrictions placed on park cafés in Haringey, and we are not allowed to serve takeaways to the public like high street businesses are able to. Because of the technicalities and bureaucracy, we do not qualify for any grants, insurance pay outs or loans.

"We have been forced to close to the public and use Deliveroo which has been quiet at best and takes a considerable chunk of any sale we make.

"What we do here is far more than the coffee and food that we provide – it's a community. It's a space where you meet new people, create bonds, and watch your kids play in a safe, happy environment. All of that has been taken away, and it has left us in an extremely difficult position."

Downhills Park Café and Craving Coffee have turned to Crowdfunder to raise the funds that their businesses need (£25,000 each, respectively), with both cafés offering a range of rewards for those able to pledge financial donations.

Rachel and Matthew said: "We are reaching out to our beloved community to help us, as we are fighting to save Craving Coffee for our team, ensuring that they have jobs to come back to."

These two businesses and many others like them across the borough, are striving to maintain what they have built over the years.

"We will be using these funds (raised) to ensure the café is still here after the COVID storm passes," said Neri.

For a full list of pledge options, and to support the Crowdfunds, head to:

Visit crowdfunder.co.uk/savecraving

Visit crowdfunder.co.uk/savedownhillsparkcafe

PHOTOGRAPHY

**● Photographs by Harry Godfrey**

These photographs were taken from out of my window and also from local walks and runs (always at a safe distance from others!) In fact, I've found that the lack of people and noise around really makes you focus on more ordinary and mundane objects that bit more. These photos attempt to capture some of the everyday beauty around Tottenham.



COMMUNITY



Cooked and delivered
Credit Ricardo Johnson

Galvanised into social action

The North London Community Consortium meets local need

By Karin Lock

One drastic consequence of the coronavirus lockdown has been the devastating loss of so many jobs. Overnight the working lives of many Tottenham residents and workers abruptly stopped, particularly the self-employed who labour in the hospitality, catering, retail, live entertainment, sports and leisure industries. Without a means of making a living anymore, some have turned to providing mutual aid to give themselves and others hope.

Within hours of the government announcements on 19th March, a group of local individuals (who had first met in January to discuss possible working partnerships) were galvanised into social action because of the halt of their business plans. North London Community Consor-

tium (NLCC) organised a community response to help those in need and began to hunt for a cooking space.

A premises was identified at Watling Street Beer Brewery, in the Triumph Trading Estate in Tariff Road, which was about to close its doors and cancel all events. Rudi the owner offered his fridge and warehouse space for the preparation and distribution of food and other necessary items. This has become NLCC's headquarters whilst two satellite sites – Tottenham Community Sports Centre and St Pauls Church, off Park Lane – are drop off points for collection.

The people behind this initiative come from many different fields: Keylon Ross is a singer who can no longer fulfil his tour dates, and Nigel Ansell, a caterer who sells to restaurants and football fans at Tottenham Hotspur matches. Ricardo Johnson is

a sports therapist working in football, and Garnett Jones is a youth worker working at Coombes Croft Library. Beverley MacKenzie runs Code 1, supporting community projects in north London, and Susannah Larson works for a local charity. All now devote themselves to running this essential service full-time.

The group started with six volunteers cooking for 20 people. These were local residents identified as vulnerable, elderly or sick. In four weeks, the operation has expanded to cooking almost 300 meals – including for medical staff at North Middlesex University Hospital, Haringey's young people in care, and residents of Winkfield Care Home in Wood Green. New addresses appear every day and they are all logged on a central database as well as the HQ's whiteboard.

Donations come from supermarkets, organisations and local people. Once sorted and cooked, a group of volunteers deliver the food parcels to the community. For example, Larens, a local student whose college has closed, has been delivering food by bike to residents in flats, houses and even barges.

NLCC's dedication has attracted the attention of both Haringey Council and BBC News London, who featured the organisation in their evening news bulletins last month. An extended programme documenting their exemplary network is to be screened later in the year.

If you would like to make donations, contact 07873 555 855



Team work Credit Ricardo Johnson

Frocking Cancer Diary

Staying at home can save a cancer patients life

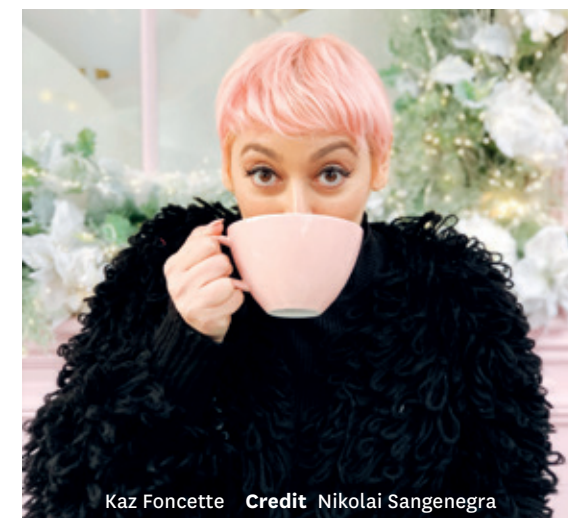
By Kaz Foncette

To quote Usher, it feels like it's been 'fifty eleven days, umpteen hours' since quarantine life began and although there will eventually (hopefully) be an end to 'lockdown life', the truth is... we don't know when that end will be.

Re-watching Harry Potter, ordering more lounge-wear clothes, waking up from my fiftieth nap and not knowing what day it is – finally the world can relate to my past life experience of living with cancer; although most people can enjoy time at home without the added chemo induced nausea.

As a cancer patient, living in isolation isn't uncommon. You are often left with no choice but to survive this way of life for weeks or sometimes months at a time, because of a compromised immune system. Visitors are few and far between, you rely on others to shop for you, do your chores for you, cook for you, and for some people social distancing becomes a new, permanent way of life. It is something that I am all-too-familiar with, in fact, I've been in this 'Groundhog Day' situation twice before. Sadly, it is an unwanted lifestyle adjustment in which most of us will be able to endure and soldier through, but only by having access to support!

I suppose there were more pros than cons about living in isolation, for one, us cancer veterans can finally have a moment to feel sorry for cancer muggles and dish out all the advice on how we can help you to find ways to cope!



Kaz Foncette Credit Nikolai Sangenegra

But all jokes aside, life in isolation, although tough, can be an awakening experience. You learn more about who you are, have time to introduce more self-care into your routine, and it gives you a chance to face and work on relationships – the most important one being with yourself.

However, it has taken a global pandemic for people to finally gain an understanding of what life can be like for people living with cancer. Times are even more tough for patient's at this moment in time, especially because treatments are being put on hold. Until this virus dies down, the sad truth is that cancer mortality rates will continue to rise, so please do the right thing and stay at home.

COMMUNITY

Literature

Karin Lock reviews 'The Rules of Contagion' by Adam Kucharski

Page
15

No one should be going hungry

Assessing the impact of Coronavirus

By Tottenham Foodbank

Tottenham Foodbank and Community Food Hub are continuing to support our vulnerable and needy neighbours, but austerity and COVID-19 are causing a huge surge in the number of local people struggling to put food on their table.

A You Gov poll released last month found that 1.5million Britons reported not eating for a whole day because they had no money or access to food. People using Tottenham Foodbank increased by 100% during March, with many more enquiries about registering to access the service. We expect dependence on foodbanks to grow as the impacts of the deepest economic downturn of our lifetime's bites further. Donations are up, but they're nowhere near enough to help our most vulnerable neighbours right now.

Poor households spend much more of their limited income on necessities, making them vulnerable to spending shocks like lost employment. In contrast, those who are better off and working from home are saving money because they're doing less discretionary spending.

Low income households are less

likely to have large supplies of food at home, so they're having to leave home more often to shop for (and find) essentials. Some are putting themselves at risk to buy food when they need to be self-isolating. Those of us who earn more have been able to afford to stock up, so we can stay home and stay safe.

We expect an increase in homelessness for renters who've had earning shocks, once restrictions on evictions are lifted. Homeowners needing to restructure their finances have been able to apply for mortgage holidays, but renters have not been able to do this.

"Sadly, this crisis is exposing the inequalities in our neighbourhood"

Low paid workers are less likely to have jobs where they can work from home, so if they're still working – they'll be more likely to come into contact with COVID-19. Lower paid workers are less likely to have other forms of income or savings to cover their bills or rent, so they simply can't afford to self-isolate.

Within these groups there are: single parents struggling to feed and entertain kids off school in cramped accommodation, members of the LGBTQ+ community without ways to escape unsupportive family

set-ups, and women and men dealing with domestic violence.

Foodbank manager, Tonye Philemon said: "Precariously-employed locals who saw their work fall away overnight need our service the most, and low-earners who are unable to work because they've caught the virus.

"Both of these groups have no savings to fall back on. With lost incomes and bills looming, people are making choices about whether they can afford to eat too, especially if they have kids to feed.

"COVID-19 is no 'great leveler' – sadly, this crisis is exposing the inequalities in our neighbourhood. Many of our donors have told us they've been lucky enough to continue working from home and are spending much less on discretionary purchases right now, so they're able to give generously to causes that are close to their hearts.

"We're seeing people across Tottenham pull together to help each other out, which is wonderful. No one in Tottenham should be going to bed hungry."

If you can donate funds to help with the running costs of the foodbank:
Visit justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tottenham-foodbank

You can stay safe, stay at home and still donate food online:
Visit bankuet.co.uk/tottenham
Twitter @TottFoodBank

The strength of the community

In our first councillors' column, Cllrs Kaushika Amin, John Bevan and Sheila Peacock highlight acts of support in Northumberland Park ward

We are writing in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. Sadly, we are all bearing witness to how this insidious virus is impacting our families and all our communities. What we are facing is daunting, but we are inspired by the strength of the community spirit highlighted all around us in everyday acts of support, love and humanity for each other.

We would like to extend our thanks to all the key workers living and working across Tottenham and Haringey for bravely carrying on working during this difficult time and helping to keep us all safe.

Here in Northumberland Park ward, things are carrying on (almost as usual) using telephone and online communication. Spurs is supporting the crisis relief efforts by providing a large safe and clean space for council staff, volunteers and voluntary sector organisations, packing much needed food and supplies for many of our most vulnerable residents across Tottenham. Over 200 food packages and 600 hot meals are provided daily through these efforts, with the numbers of households supported also increasing each day.

Our much-loved Bruce Castle Museum is sending out the Daily Local History Post, via email. It's an archive that highlights different parts of Tottenham's history and people, demonstrating pivotal moments and community responses to past events that have taken place in the borough. The Museum is creating an archive

about this difficult period and they want contributions from local residents, of your stories and experiences.

The Northumberland Park Safer Neighbourhoods team is working hard as usual. Their role in keeping the area safe is vital, and as councillors we are extremely grateful to them. Their focus over the years has been on building positive relationships with young people and all our communities, and we meet the team often to discuss policing issues in the area.

As the Mayor of the Borough, Sheila is sending inspiring videos on keeping safe and strong during this period. Her 350 strong pensioners group is continuing to keep in contact with each other despite Tottenham Green Leisure Centre, where they usually hold their weekly activities (which include music and dancing, and speakers discussing health and services), being closed.

There are lots of other community organisations working hard during this time. Do let us know if there is something specific you are looking for and we will do our best to help you remotely.

With our warmest wishes during this difficult time.

Cllrs. Kaushika Amin, Sheila Peacock and John Bevan

Email kaushika.amin@haringey.gov.uk
Email sheila.peacock@haringey.gov.uk
(Email Cllr Peacock if you would like to receive videos and information about her pensioners group)
Email john.bevan@haringey.gov.uk

For more information about Bruce Castle Museum's newsletter and archive:
Visit haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/culture/exploring-haringey/bruce-castle-museum/daily-local-history-posts



Cllrs Amin, Bevan and Peacock Credit: Grace Abdo

NEWS

ICNN fights to support local news publishers

The Independent Community News Network calls on financial support package from the government

By Luchia Robinson

The Independent Community News Network (ICNN) has begun a national campaign to help local news publications survive through the coronavirus pandemic.

ICNN's Save Local Journalism campaign is highlighting the importance of local news, in efforts to secure funds to support its membership of 108 small news publishers nationwide, including *Tottenham Community Press (TCP)*.

Emma Meese, Director of ICNN said: "We fear that, unless we can secure some emergency funding to support small news publishers at this time, communities across the UK will lose their independent press at a time when they need it most."

"It is critical for public health that these publications continue to give essential, verified and useful information to the communities they serve."

"If these publishers are forced to close, the UK will be left with many more news black holes which we

will struggle to fill again."

With advertising revenue in sharp decline, ICNN is calling for these local publications to get direct access to any government Public Health/NHS advertising campaigns, to ensure they can continue to operate.

"We cannot stress enough how a little funding will go a very long way with our members," said Emma.

"Business hibernation is not possible because of the nature of what these news organisations do. Now, more than ever, they need to be growing their output to help connect communities."

ICNN has reached out to local MPs seeking their support in recognising the impact of these independent publications within their local communities.

Speaking of *TCP*, MP for Tottenham, David Lammy, said: "Ever since it launched in 2016, *Tottenham Community Press* has become a bedrock of our constituency. Authority from above is checked most robustly, responsibly and rigorously when we hear testimony and truth from below."

"By providing an opportunity for local people to set the agenda themselves, *Tottenham Community Press* has generated an unrivalled sense of solidarity between our diverse communities."

"As my local newspaper, I look forward to its authentic storytelling and hard-hitting journalism every single month. So much so that, frankly, I cannot imagine the local community without it."

The Liberal Democrats are leading a cross-party campaign in support of ICNN and small-scale publications.

Writing in a letter to the government, Lib Dem MP Alistair Carmichael requested for a proportionate share of public health advertising spend to be pledged to local press.

He said: "This letter is about getting a fair share of government advertising spend for local and independent press, to reflect both their importance in our communities and their financial needs. The Secretary of State for Health has an important role in deciding

"Ever since it launched in 2016, *Tottenham Community Press* has become a bedrock of our constituency. Authority from above is checked most robustly, responsibly and rigorously when we hear testimony and truth from below."

"By providing an opportunity for local people to set the agenda themselves, *Tottenham Community Press* has generated an unrivalled sense of solidarity between our diverse communities."

"As my local newspaper, I look forward to its authentic storytelling and hard-hitting journalism every single month."

– Rt Hon David Lammy MP

where these advertising funds go." Cllr Liz Morris, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on Haringey Council, said: "Haringey is very lucky to still have a vibrant local press. Outlets such as the *Ham & High*, *Enfield & Haringey Independent* and *Tottenham Community Press* play a crucial role in not only keeping us all informed about the news across the borough, but they also have an important role to play in the fight against coronavirus."

"The government must take action in pledging a proportionate share of public health advertising spend to local media. This will not only provide financial support to ensure these outlets don't go under during this crisis, but step up the public information available to the public which is imperative to delaying the spread of the virus."

For information about ICNN:
Visit communityjournalism.co.uk

To support TCP:
Visit tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/join

Advertisement

A message from David Lammy, Member of Parliament for Tottenham



The Coronavirus pandemic presents an unprecedented challenge for ourselves, our loved ones and our communities. During this time my caseworkers and I will continue to provide all possible assistance to constituents who have concerns or need advice and support. You can contact me on mail@davidlammy.co.uk or visit my website at www.davidlammy.co.uk. My office receives many hundreds of emails each day and we do respond as quickly as possible. We aim to respond to casework enquiries within 10 working days, although we do work to get back as early as we can. To assist me with any enquiries I make on your behalf, please ensure you have provided me with your full address including postcode, your contact telephone number and any relevant reference numbers.

In many ways, the crisis has brought out the best in our community, despite being placed under huge strain. Please find the following list of websites and organisations for useful guidance, as well as information on how you can help others in your area:

For latest health advice
Visit nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

For up-to date Government updates
Visit gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response

For the Mayor of London's latest updates
Visit london.gov.uk/what-we-do/statement-coronavirus-covid-19

To access local support and advice
Call Haringey Council's Connected Communities line on 020 8489 4431 (open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm) or **visit** haringey.gov.uk/community/connected-communities

Employees and employers seeking advice:
Visit acas.org.uk/coronavirus

The self-employed seeking advice:
Visit ipse.co.uk/ipse-news/news-listing/coronavirus-ipse-activity-and-advice-freelancers.html
Visit gov.uk/government/news/tax-helpline-to-support-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19

For mental health support
Visit kooth.com
Visit good-thinking.uk
Call Samaritans on 116 123

For schools guidance
Visit gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19

For information on Employment Support Allowance and Universal Credit:

Visit gov.uk/employment-support-allowance
Visit understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/employment-and-benefits-support/

Support for businesses:

Visit gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19
Visit fsb.org.uk/campaign/covid19.html

The government has made a commitment to support those in the private rental sector, including suspending evictions for 3 months.

If you are facing housing difficulties:
Visit homesforharingey.org

Mutual Aid Groups are being set up across Haringey to help those who are self-isolating and in need of support. You can find information on how to get involved by searching for Haringey COVID-19 Mutual Aid on Facebook. You can also:
Visit nextdoor.co.uk
Search "Coronavirus: Haringey neighbours supporting each other."

More people are relying on foodbanks. Tottenham Town Hall are accepting donations between 11.30 – 18.30. Alternatively, you can make a donation:
Visit justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tottenham-foodbank
Visit bankuet.co.uk/tottenham

Anyone thinking of volunteering in the community:
Visit <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/covid-19/haringey-together> for advice on staying safe.

COMMUNITY

COMMENT



The field next to 318a White Hart Lane More than a little patch of green

By Terry Egan

At 6 o'clock in the morning, just where the Memorial Park lies next to Tottenham Cemetery, you could be standing on a country lane. The road curves away either side, so that, with precious little traffic at that time, you're in another century. That's especially so if it's winter and snowing. For the only time that day, White Hart Lane is what it was – and you'll stand there enchanted.

Just opposite the Memorial Park gate there's a field that was left to complement the park. It's about the only respite from the buildings and congestion along the Lane now.

100 years ago, that field was a pond, and there are several pictures showing that pond. It stood right opposite the rectory farm, where the cemetery is.

An older neighbour – who's now gone – said there was an unspoken agreement the field was never to be built over, and this is more than likely considering its position opposite the park, where it provides an obvious breathing space.

The council, however, now has its eye on this little patch of green. Despite all the huge plots it might be building on nearby, it's trying to put an apartment block there. This would, of course, violate the unspoken agreement which has left the field free of buildings for 100 years. But more than that, it would violate Tottenham's history.

I wrote to Ken Barker, the author of *How Rural Tottenham Disappeared*, which refers to the pond. He said: "This patch of open ground is one of the last vestiges of rural Tottenham which, although small,

"This patch of open ground is one of the last vestiges of rural Tottenham"

provided a pleasant amenity for the area.

"The green was the site of a well-known pond in White Hart Lane that was used by passing traffic to water their horses and soak the wooden wheels of the carts and wagons. "As such it is both a valuable reminder and evidence of Tottenham's past."

The planners said they didn't know why the field had never been used and they couldn't believe it had not been. Perhaps. But this is why.

LETTER

Good luck for the future

Dear TCP

It is good to see our local MP, David Lammy, taking his place again in the new Shadow Cabinet. He has been very vocal of late, usually on very important issues which are close to the hearts of many local people.

It helps that he is a local man, brought up in Tottenham and familiar with its strengths and its problems.

It will be a boost for the area to have its MP in the Shadow Cabinet, particularly at this time when cross-party understanding is so important.

It is even better that he along with local MPs Bambos Charalambous and Tulip Siddiq (and some cabinet members) is a great supporter of Proportional Representation (PR). Hopefully they will be able to persuade their colleagues to also support it. Many of them are undecided on the issue including Labour's new leader – a position which seems to be typical of Labour and most of its policies as a whole.

Hopefully they will come to realise that adopting PR is their best and probably their only, chance of becoming the governing party again. Many of David Lammy's constituents and party members would do well to consider this if they wish to see a party in government which reflects the aspirations and needs of Tottenham.

In the meantime, may we all wish Mr Lammy good luck for the future.

Keith Hubbard
St Ann's Ward

COVID-19 Appeal launched in Haringey

Local community initiative, Haringey Giving has opened an appeal to raise funds in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The appeal raised over £40,000 of its £50,000 target in just ten days of it launching last month, with funds immediately going to community groups, charities and not-for-profit initiatives supporting vulnerable people in Haringey that are being greatly impacted by

the Coronavirus outbreak.

Director of Haringey Giving, Colin Bowen said: "This is an unprecedented crisis and COVID-19 is impacting hugely on the lives of people in Haringey. This is much, much worse for our most vulnerable people who need urgent support through this crisis.

"The vital support provided by our charities and community organisations is being stretched to breaking

point, while there is a huge surge in demand for their support, and they are having to change the way they provide services to prevent coronavirus infection.

"We are working with the charity sector and key agencies across the borough to ensure that the Haringey COVID-19 Appeal fund is used where it will have the greatest impact throughout the crisis."

Law firm Linklaters LLP has

partnered with Haringey Giving to match any donations made by individuals and organisations up to a total of £40,000, and Tottenham based brewery, ORA Beer is donating 10% of all beer sales in their online shop against a target of £500 towards the wider appeal.

Daniele, Head of Operations at ORA Beer said: "We are well aware of the difficulties everyone is going through now. As a Tottenham

business, we have been incredibly affected by the current situation and we ourselves are struggling to survive. We feel we want to stay close to the community during this challenging time so we are keen to donate part of the revenues from our online shop to the most vulnerable part of our community, and we encourage others to do so."

Visit haringeygiving.org.uk

FEATURE

Potential for meaningful change

Tottenham MP, David Lammy outlines his vision of justice in his latest book, *Tribes*



Rt Hon David Lammy MP

By Bella Saltiel

"This crisis is reminding us of our common humanity," David Lammy MP tells me.

I am speaking to Mr Lammy on the phone from my living room. Like most people around the country, we are both in self-isolation. Shared experiences like this emerge from the chaos caused by the pandemic – and because of this, Lammy says, there is potential for "meaningful change."

Lammy addresses this change in his latest book, *Tribes*, which he begins by suggesting that all humans want to belong. This leads him to take a DNA test which reveals his mixed heritage.

Lammy's story illustrates one of his central messages, that ethnic nationalism is divisive, and forces an identity "defined by the colour of your skin" or the home of your ancestors. In *Tribes*, he argues that failing to understand the 'other' has fermented systemic polarisation, and he suggests

replacing ethnic nationalism with 'civic nationalism' – amending a national identity crisis that has used migrants as scapegoats.

A possible solution, Lammy argues is by developing migration laws at a sub-national level, as well as developing an inclusive national identity. This, he tells me, requires the government to "think about how we, as citizens, encounter one

"Britain has a responsibility for the Windrush generation"

another," and he imagines this would be achieved by facilitating a compulsory civic service that would rebuild the 'civic hearts' of communities starved by austerity, whilst also addressing "the way in which, in this

country we've hoarded power at the centre." His message feels ironic during forced isolation but he insists that, on the contrary, the 'encounter culture' really is a new way of thinking about the common good.

Perhaps, one thing that the Coronavirus pandemic has given us is a shared story. Right at the centre of Lammy's 'civic nationalism' is one that champions English values without becoming a homogenising force. When Lammy reimagines England, it stands up for its ideals, enshrining a vision of justice in the world by speaking truthfully about the savagery of colonialism.

Lammy believes this is in part because of the problematic way history is taught in the UK, and it this failing in the education system that has led to a generation that does not know its own country's history. He says: "[Britain] doesn't understand that those people that came here after the Second World War were invited here, it doesn't want to understand that they were descendants of enslaved people.

"Britain has a responsibility for the Windrush generation. It should be handling that generation with tremendous respect, understanding the fragility that comes from that very painful history. Instead, the brutality with which the Windrush were treated is kind of incomprehensible."

In her Lessons Learnt Review, inspector of constabulary, Wendy Williams, reveals that in June 2017 there were estimated to be 524,000 people who were born in the commonwealth, and living in the UK, who arrived before 1971. 57,000 of them self-report as not being UK citizens. Williams reports that over a period of 16 years, 164 people from the Windrush Generation were forcefully detained or removed from the UK.

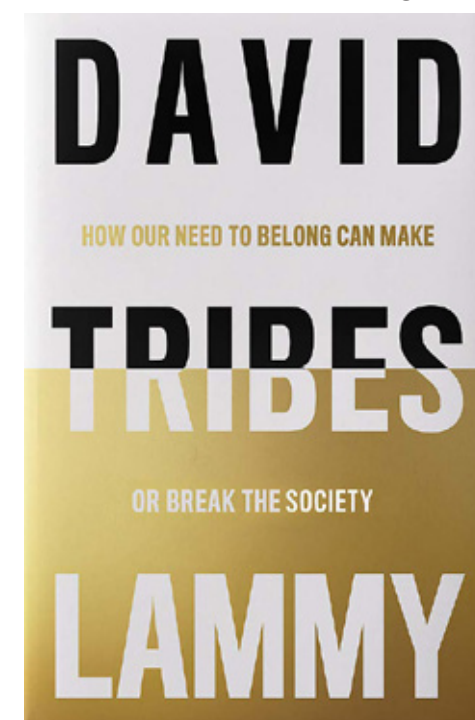
Lammy views the Windrush scandal as being an example of Britain "whitewashing history and not really facing the truth." However, he insists we can build a proud national identity, whilst still acknowledging this brutal history, because reconciliation is "not entirely about hanging your head in shame."

"There's lots of virtue in being English, - our sense of humour, our wit, the fact that we are, on the whole, a nation that's able to queue peacefully," he says.

Lammy emphasises how proud he is of his constituents, mentioning in particular, all of the people, whose stories of perseverance he has included in *Tribes*. He is proud for having the possibility to serve the public, and he's hopeful.

He said: "I believe in the human spirit, but these are very, very challenging times. We're living in the times of Trump and Farage and Bolsonaro."

Nevertheless, Lammy adds, it is still a world "in which we have to come together."



LITERATURE

Pandemics: Rethinking to understand

By Karin Lock

As we settle into our lockdown routine, it is evident that the human, economic and social cost of the COVID-19 pandemic has been grossly underestimated. Many questions persist: What are we actually testing? Is immunity possible? Why are men and BAME communities more susceptible? And how did the virus disappear so quickly from China?

Amidst such confusion, *The Rules of Contagion* provides some answers with its straight-talking analysis of epidemiology – the study of disease transmission and control. Written before the current global catastrophe, the author’s chilling prediction is prescient: “pandemic prepared-

ness requires long-term engagement with politically complex, multidimensional problems.”

“The Rules of Contagion demonstrates the importance of behavioural change in outbreak control”

ness requires long-term engagement with politically complex, multidimensional problems.”

Adam Kucharski is an award-winning mathematician from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine who has first-hand experience of the Ebola

and Zika epidemics that spread through West Africa, South America and the Pacific. His theory is clear-cut: to understand contagion we must rethink everything we think we know about why and how infection occurs.

The Rules of Contagion opens with a history of malaria, the world’s oldest disease. Spread by female mosquitos, it is treatable yet unbelievably still kills over 400,000 people a year, many of whom are children. Eradicated from Europe 45 years ago, malaria is also the first malady where mathematical modelling was trialled as a tool for disease research.

Kucharski examines infection and recovery rates of recent pathogens such as the 2003 SARS and 2009 swine flu viruses. He concludes that data is unreliable and mathematical models are a hit-and-miss affair. Yet models can convince decision makers that a problem exists, as we saw recently here with the Imperial College study of COVID -19 death projections.

Disease theories can also explain other contagious scenarios like financial crisis, gun violence, suicide memes and drug addiction. Alluding to America’s opiate crisis, the writer notes drug overdose as the leading cause of death for under 55s, shortening life expectancy year on year. In Britain, suicide is the main cause of male deaths under 30, resulting in strict rules on newspaper reporting to prevent epidemics.

The book also combines stories



and science to dispel ongoing myths associated with public health research. Gun violence has been attributed to everything from

poverty, unemployment, school exclusion and absentee fathers. Yet map clusters of incidents that resemble cholera infestations sug-

gest that violence is a social contagion that spreads from preceding violent events.

The Rules of Contagion demonstrates the importance of behavioural change in outbreak control. Some British pundits are advocating Big Brother-style population monitoring with national ID cards and immunity passports. Others recognise the risks of excessive surveillance, even though this already happens through our mobile phone tracking systems.

Non-consensual human experimentation for disease study is another concern. For example, the 1950-60s infections of New York children with hepatitis; or the black Tuskegee syphilis sufferers (and their wives and children) who died between 1932-1972.

The issue of trust and consent is at the heart of *The Rules of Contagion*. The ‘infodemic’ transpiring from this current coronavirus outbreak has uncovered the public’s mistrust of both government and technology. Facebook personal data harvesting (during the Brexit referendum) and the numerous NHS data breaches, may scare off potential users of contact tracing apps.

There is much to learn from this absorbing study. Although pandemics are part of our evolution, we are still not responding in time. Kucharski is clear: vaccinating every person is not necessarily the answer, but the longer it takes to tackle COVID-19, the larger the control efforts will have to be.

Advertisement

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that **Hingston & Co Ltd (Black Lines)** has/have applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Haringey for a Premises Licence to permit:

Online (off licence) sale of alcohol between the hours of **09:00–17:00 Monday-Friday** for the premises **Black Lines (Little Line House) Situated at Unit 4 Little Line House, 41-43 West Road, London, N17 0RE**

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at Licensing Team, Level 1, River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green, London N22 8HQ

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice in writing to the London Borough of Haringey, Licensing team at the above address, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: **14/05/2020**

Copies of all valid representations must include your name and address and will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authorities Sub Committee, these will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations can be emailed to **licensing@haringey.gov.uk**

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

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to £5000 under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.

Dated: 17/04/2020
Signed: Casey Sorenson

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

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

Opening Hours Monday – Sunday 00:00 to 00:00
Supply of Alcohol off the Premises Monday – Sunday 00:00 to 00:00
for the premises **Buy 2 Save Concept**, situated at **63-64 Grand Parade, Green Lanes, London N4 1AF.**

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at Licensing Team, Level 1, River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green, London N22 8HQ

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice in writing to the London Borough of Haringey, Licensing team at the above address, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: **21/05/2020.**

Copies of all valid representations must include your name and address and will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authorities Sub Committee, these will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations can be emailed to **licensing@haringey.gov.uk**

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

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to £5000 under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.

This application has been prepared and submitted by ESI Licence, 84 Hayes Lane, Bromley, BR2 9EE, **licence@eurosafetyinternational.co.uk**

Dated: 23rd day of April 2020
Signed: Mustafa Cakir

Support local independent journalism

Have your say!

Take part in our
readers' survey

Visit tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/survey

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:

Visit tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/join

Individual rewards

£3 per month upwards:

Name in print and online, pin badge

£5 per month upwards:

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

Organisational rewards

£10 per month:

Name in print and online, 10% discount on advertising

£20 per month:

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

£50 per month:

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

Member organisations

Slimming World Enfield and Tottenham



To become an organisational member email:
klaudia@socialspider.com