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# TOTTENHAM COMMUNITY PRESS

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Nº.30, Free

Local news that matters to you



David Lammy MP Credit Luchia Robinson

## David Lammy MP re-elected to represent Tottenham Labour lose nationally but win big locally

By Luchia Robinson

**R**t Hons David Lammy has been re-elected to represent Tottenham in Parliament with 76% of the local votes cast.

The general election count took place last month at Tottenham

Hotspur stadium, where Haringey Labour candidates, David Lammy MP and Hornsey and Wood Green representative, Catherine West MP were both re-elected to their parliamentary seats.

The Tottenham electoral registration this election was 75,740,

this was among the highest ever recorded (the highest since 1987), roughly 3000 up on the 2017 figure.

However, the Tottenham turnout this 2019 election was 61.9% – a 5.8% lower turnout than the 2017 general election. The Exit Poll, in the run up to the Totten-

ham declaration, correctly predicted a Conservative majority.

This prediction prompted David Lammy to tweet: “This looks abysmal. The result will be devastating for communities like mine all around the country who are now facing five years of Boris

*“I will continue to put all my energy into fighting for you in these dark times”*

Johnson with unchecked power. I am more fearful for our country than at any point in my lifetime.”

Ahead of the declaration on the night, Conservative candidate, James Newhall told *TCP*: “We’ll have a Conservative majority, and parliament can finally get moving, so I’m absolutely excited.”

“I’m looking at the ballot papers and it looks like David [Lammy] is going to hold on to it, but it looks like we may have reduced his majority. So no, I’m not confident that I’m going to win, but it’s showing that in areas like Tottenham that there is a good Conservative vote out there – so raising that vote, and raising the profile of the Party across London, is fantastic. All in all, it’s been a very, very good night for us.”

Whilst on a national level Conservatives were polling ahead of Labour, Liberal Democrats and Scottish National Party; locally, Haringey Mayor, Sheila Peacock declared David Lammy as Member of Parliament for Tottenham – a long-held Labour constituency, with a majority of 30,175 votes.

Liberal Democrat candidate and Haringey Cllr Tammy Palmer said: “This wasn’t about winning; this was about saying that there is an opposition here. It’s about saying that we’ve been represented by one party here in Tottenham, for too long.

“I don’t believe that we are thriving

Continued on Page-3

Have your say! Take part in our readers' survey: Visit [tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/survey](https://tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/survey)



## SUPPORT

## Steadfast In Difficulties

JANUARY 2020  
N°. 30

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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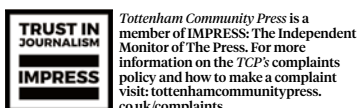
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## TCP Membership



Credit Penny Dampier

Tottenham Community Press is not your regular media initiative. Behind the paper is a small team, dedicated to publishing community news.

Here at Social Spider CIC we publish four community newspapers written by and for local people in Tottenham, as well as our other locations: Waltham Forest, Enfield and Clerkenwell.

We are passionate about keeping local journalism alive by covering local stories mostly ignored by the corporate media. We also help others by sharing our best practice of how to set up community newspapers across the UK. On top of this, we conduct research into social investment, mental health, social enterprise business models and more.

We believe community newspapers are the reflections of their communities. Our readers often talk to us about long closed publications that used to cover their area and how unfortunate it is

that they have disappeared. Well, the reason is simple. Making newspapers is expensive. Advertisers are turning to social media or cheaper publications mostly run by larger corporations, who often place more adverts into their papers than content.

Our newspapers are about relevant content, with a majority of the paper always being news. We are funded by advertising, membership, and occasional small pots of grant funding. We are not-for-profit, and all our income goes towards the continuous printing of your monthly news.

At Social Spider CIC, we believe that our communities deserve media that reflects their lives. We think it is important for people to be informed about what is happening near them. Our four papers: *Tottenham Community Press*, *Waltham Forest Echo*, *Enfield Dispatch* and our newest publication, *EC1 Echo* are free, have a distribution of around

10,000 hard copies each, and are also available to download from our websites. It is hard to make a newspaper and keep it financially sustainable, but we love doing it.

The average cost per issue of Tottenham Community Press is around £3,900 but our current monthly income is often as little as half that.

This leaves a gap that has to be covered by income from our social enterprise's research and consultancy work. This model has enabled us to get the paper up-and-running but it can't continue indefinitely.

That's why we need help from readers who value our work and recognise the need for quality, independent local journalism. Turn to the back page for details of how to become a TCP member

**Klaudia Kiss, Head of Advertising and Membership**

**H**appy New Year and welcome to issue 30.

We head into 2020 with re-elected MP David Lammy representing Tottenham in Parliament for another term (front page), and a new annual budget on the way, that will fund local public services across the borough (p.4).

Homes for Haringey reveal the extent to which Universal Credit

is having an impact upon their tenants (p.4), and Haringey Council announces that it will continue offering tax relief to lower income families, with the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (p.4).

The months ahead are much anticipated by the volunteer team at Threads radio. The station is set to relocate this year, and the team have been raising funds that will

prepare them, both for the move, and for new studio equipment that will enable them to carry on making a range of content in the meantime (p.11).

Local resident, Cindy Obiji is a contestant in this summer's Miss Guyana UK Beauty Pageant. She tells *TCP* what the competition means to her and how she is getting ready for it (p.7).

We here at *TCP* are entering 2020 with excitement about telling more of your local news stories. In the notice above, Klaudia Kiss, Head of Advertising and Membership at Social Spider CIC, gives an overview of our past year, and our vision for this new one.

**Luchia Robinson**  
Editor



NEWS



Counting the votes Credit Luchia Robinson

Continued From Page 1

ing as much as we could in Tottenham and I think that if you speak to people locally, there's a lot of anger towards the fact that they [Labour] don't have to work very hard here, and I think that they should work harder.

"I give my commitment to Tottenham to stand again as a Tottenham resident, and to keep fighting for it, and to keep demanding better of the party that governs here."

Fifth ranking Brexit candidate, Abdul Turay said: "I'm happy with the result of this election because this has been called the Brexit election, and the British people have clearly sent the message 'we want Brexit done.'


"Now it becomes a question of 'what kind of Brexit do we have?' Do we have a Brexit that works for the British people– a kind of Commonwealth Brexit that I want? Or do we have a Brexit where Britain isolates itself from the world?"

Following the result, David Lammy MP tweeted: "Thanks to Tottenham voters for endorsing me. Representing the place I grew up is the greatest honour of my life. I will continue to put all my energy into fighting for you in these dark times."

Tottenham Parliamentary Constituency

David Lammy, Labour:	35,621
James Newhall, Conservatives:	5,446
Tammy Palmer, Liberal Democrats:	3,168
Emma Chan, Green Party:	1,873
Brexit Party, Abdul Turay:	527
Social Democratic Party, Andrew Bence:	91
Workers Revolutionary Party:	88
Communist League, Jonathan Silberman:	42

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## NEWS



## Update: The effects of Universal Credit

### Council housing tenants in arrears

By Luchia Robinson

A report assessing the impact of Universal Credit (UC) upon Homes for Haringey (HfH) tenants finds that residents in receipt of the means tested benefit are twice as likely to be in rent arrears as before its introduction.

According to the report by Housing Management organisation, HfH, the arrears of its 1529 tenants currently receiving the benefit have worsened since their migration to UC – with tenants who move in and out of work having the highest arrears.

UC payments are made five or more weeks in arrears. The report finds that advance payments which can be made to claimants,

tend not to be used to pay rent. As a result, rent arrears accrue throughout the transition period on to the benefit.

HfH has noted that tenants who have made an advance payment claim in the assessment stage are having high deductions made once the UC benefit is in payment.

The self-employed are particularly affected, so too are residents without English as their first language, who face insufficient access to translation facilities.

HfH finds there to be an increasing demand for intensive support such as budgeting advice. New tenants are requiring support using the online claim forms and understanding how the benefit is calculated. More vulnerable tenants have also struggled to

manage the monthly payment.

Direct rent payments (Alternative Payment Arrangements -APAs) which are requested once arrears exceed two calendar months, have been set up by HfH to include the rental costs, and where appropriate, payments towards arrears.

The report states: 'Information from our tenants indicates that their income has generally reduced since they have been in receipt of UC and many are finding it difficult to manage. Our income teams are issuing more vouchers for tenants to gain access to local food banks to assist tenants requiring additional support.'

Existing claimants of legacy benefits will be transferred to Universal Credit from this year.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Council Tax Reduction Scheme continues

Haringey Council will continue to run its Council Tax Reduction Scheme in 2020/21.

The scheme supports Haringey's lowest income families, providing 100% Council Tax relief to working age claimants with children.

This support had previously only been available to pensioners and people in receipt of certain disability benefits, until last year when

maximum support was extended to include claimants with children, of which there were approximately 5,600 in 2019/20.

Council Tax support for all other working age claimants is capped at 80.2%, meaning 19.8% is paid towards Council Tax.

The Council says: 'The scheme continues to provide financial support to those in low-paid

employment and to those not in employment. This allows for greater spending power by those recipients of Council Tax Reduction, which could be having a positive impact on the local economy.'

The Council must approve the final scheme by Wednesday, 11th March, even if the scheme remains unchanged ready for implementation on Wednesday, 1st April.

## Annual budget revealed

### Have your say on the borough budget

Haringey Council has unveiled its 2020-2021 budget which promotes a fairer economy, tackles housing injustice and the climate emergency and supports youth provision.

The budget, which sets out how the council can run services more efficiently, is now open for public consultation.

Since 2010 Central Government grant funding has been reduced by £124million (62%), and the council staff numbers have almost halved. £24million of savings or new income is needed to balance the budget over the next four years.

Cllr Charles Adje, Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategic Regeneration, said: "We are committed to fighting housing injustice, building a fairer economy that delivers opportunities for local people, ensuring every child and young person has a bright future and tackling the climate emergency – priorities that matter to us, and to you."

"It is vital that every penny we spend goes on the things that make the most difference to our residents. Please make your voices heard."

#### Priorities in the proposed new budget include:

• **Fighting housing injustice** – Haringey's administration has pledged to deliver 1,000 additional council homes at council rent. It has secured more than £60million of Building Council Homes for Londoners funding from the Mayor of London, and has plans for funding new homes on more than 60 sites, starting at Templeton Road in Seven Sisters. 227 new council homes have already been confirmed.

The council is introducing selective licensing of the private rented sector for 60% of the borough, and is buying new homes to let to those in need of temporary accommodation, in hopes of improving standards for tenants and saving the council money.

• **Building a fairer economy** – As a Living Wage employer, the council has committed more than £4million to ensure adult social care staff at partner organisations receive a London Living Wage. The full council tax relief for the least well-off residents with children

is to continue, with care-leavers being exempt until age 25.

Outsourced services will now be delivered by the council, with the £150,000 saved per year invested back into the priority areas. Local properties leased directly by the council will be used for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, saving a further £150,000 each year to improve the services offered to these young people.

• **A bright future for young people** – The council is funding Bruce Grove Youth Space, an expanded summer activity programme, and new youth workers through the Haringey Community Gold scheme. It also pledges to invest £50million in the next five years to ensure children have modern school buildings in safe environments.

• **Tackling the climate emergency** – The council is preparing to publish the first fully-costed and measurable Zero Climate Action Plan in London.

It has a programme to plant 750 trees in the next two years, continue the roll out of new electric vehicle charging points, increase permit charges for the highest emitting petrol vehicles, improve the standards of park buildings, replace streetlights with energy efficient LED light bulbs, and buy a new fleet of electric vehicles for Haringey's parks.

£3million is to be invested in School Streets across the borough. The council is also proposing to reduce the bulky waste collection charge by 20% – down to £20 for up to 4 items.

• **Generating income and spending your money wisely** – The council is proposing a 1.99% Council Tax increase, plus a 2% supplement to support the increasing cost of adult social care.

Improvements will be made to the council's parking IT system and high street cleaning.

This year's budget also includes proposals to invest in the council's nine libraries, to ensure they are accessible and used to their full potential.

**The budget consultation runs until Sunday, 19th January:**

**Visit** [haringey.gov.uk/budgetconsultation](http://haringey.gov.uk/budgetconsultation)



# SEND Transport plans disputed

## Concerns over award of SEND transport contract to private company



Haringey Civic Centre Credit Stephen Furner

By Simon Allin,  
Local Democracy Reporter

A plan to bring in a private firm to make school transport for children with special needs more efficient has been delayed following criticism from parents and councillors. Haringey's top decision-makers agreed in November to bring in consultancy, Edge Public Solutions to help improve the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) transport service and save more than £600,000 a year.

But at a cabinet meeting last month, one councillor slammed the plans following reports that another local authority (Brighton and Hove) that hired the firm ended up spending significantly more money on home-to-school transport.

Cllr Noah Tucker (Labour, St Ann's) said: "What if, like they did in Brighton and Hove, this profit-motivated, private-sector cowboy loses the borough the best part of a million pounds?"

Cllr Tucker claimed the firm would "seek in every way to maximise the gain to their shareholders and directors by cuts that will be unnecessary and motivated by

financial gain to the company."

Also speaking at the meeting was Marta de La Vega, founder of Haringey parents' group sendPACT, who said she had not seen any evidence that parents had been consulted about the changes.

Cllr Zena Brabazon, (Labour, Harringay), cabinet member for children and families, denied the council was privatising the service and said parents had been involved in drawing up the plans.

She said parents had given evidence to the council that the service was not up to standard, including "buses not turning up, breaking down, and all the things we know can happen in a really difficult set of circumstances, where if one thing goes wrong, the whole thing falls apart."

Cllr Brabazon added: "The company that has won this project has done this work in many authorities.

"This is not a privatisation or outsourcing. The staff who work in the transport team will remain working in it.

"We want to change the organisational culture and bring in fresh management."

Cllr Brabazon said 50 parents had been consulted as part of a scoping

exercise that also included schools. The decision to award the contract had been sent back to the cabinet by the council's overview and scrutiny committee with several recommendations designed to strengthen engagement with parents.

Cllr Brabazon said cabinet members accepted all the recommendations made by the scrutiny committee.

After discussing the matter during a private session, council leader Cllr Joseph Ejiofor (Labour, Bruce Grove) proposed to defer the decision on awarding the contract to a future cabinet meeting.

He said during that time, officers "will fully explore all the options for this service transformation." The proposal was agreed by a majority of cabinet members.

Jim Aspin, manager of Edge Public Solutions, said his company had "worked very successfully with councils across the UK for the last 10 years" and the firm faced an "unprecedented" situation at Brighton and Hove city council.

Mr Aspin said that in Brighton and Hove, disruption to minibus services before the start of new contracts had led to the "emergency temporary provision of much costlier taxi vehicles."

He pointed out that the council had told the BBC the firm was "not to blame" and had commissioned an independent review of the problems.

Mr Aspin added: "We are confident that the underlying causes of this disruption – and the significantly increased costs, as a result – will be identified in this review and demonstrate that Edge Public Solutions acted with great care and professionalism in very difficult circumstances.

"In recent months we have worked with Haringey Council very successfully to review their passenger transport operation.

"The review has been extremely well received and identifies opportunities to improve quality and efficiency. If delivered, it will allow Haringey to continue to offer a quality service in the context of ever-increasing budget pressures and increasing demand for these services now and in the future."

# Warning over schools' budget funding gap

## Council set to overspend by £5.1 million

By Simon Allin,  
Local Democracy Reporter

A funding gap in the borough's schools' budget is a "matter of real concern", Haringey Council's cabinet member for finance has warned.

A budget update report shows the council is set to spend £5.1 million more than it is receiving from the Government to fund schools in the current financial year.

This is "a serious issue" and "presents a significant risk to the authority if not resolved at a national level", the report adds.

The overspend is in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – a pot of money ringfenced for schools that is separate from the council's general fund.

Councillors discussed the budget update at a cabinet meeting last month.

Cllr Charles Adje (Labour, White Hart Lane), cabinet member for finance and strategic regeneration, told the meeting: "This is a matter of real concern, and pressure needs to be put on Government to recognise this issue and come forward with a sustainable solution."

The DSG overspend is partly because of pressure on the high needs funding block, which is set aside to help children with special education needs and disabilities who require extra support.

A rise in the number of pupils eligible for education, health and care plans has contributed to this pressure.

Teaching unions have warned the Government has been underfunding schools since 2010, with money pledged for education failing to match rising costs.

According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, per-pupil spending in England's schools dropped by 8% between 2010 and 2018.

The council report also shows its general fund budget overspend is currently forecast at £5.2 million

– significantly below the £15.9 million overspend reported in the same period in the previous financial year.

Cllr Adje said this was because of ensuring the decisions taken, when setting this year's budget were "as realistic as possible."

But he also called for efforts to bring the budget back to a balanced position by the end of the financial year.

**"This presents a significant risk to the authority if not resolved at a national level"**



Cllr Charles Adje  
Credit Haringey Council



## NEWS

# Haringey schools celebrated

Pupils and staff celebrated Haringey's school community at the council's annual Outstanding For All (OFA) Awards.

Held last month at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, the OFAs – in their seventh year – celebrate those who go above and beyond, acknowledging achievements in categories including: apprenticeships, the arts, community heroism, early years education and sport.

Ann Graham, Haringey Council's Director of Children's Services, said: "The standard of entries this year was exceptionally high. They were easily among the best we've ever received and it was difficult to narrow them down to a shortlist of finalists. I'd like to congratulate everybody involved on what they've managed to achieve this year and look forward to similar success stories in all of our schools in 2020."

"A big well done and thank you to everyone who works so hard in each and every one of our schools – you really do Haringey proud."

The actor, writer and broadcaster Tom Watt was the guest presenter on the night, which also saw six different acts from the Haringey Young Musicians

ensemble, perform.

Tom said: "It was a brilliant night and a lot of fun. There was a lovely atmosphere in the room and I'm just full of respect and admiration for what people have achieved. There were some amazing performances too by kids of all ages."

"It's just nice for the students to be recognised for what they've achieved. It was great."

Devonshire Hill Nursery and Primary won the Outstanding STEM Achievement accolade for the primary school

sector, courtesy of the STEM competition team from Quartz Class in Year 5.

Kehinde Ogunlabi, from The Willow School and Broadwaters Children's Centre, was acknowledged as the Community Hero, and Rowland Hill Nursery School and Children's Centre's, Antonia Wheeler was named Early Years Champion.

The Cllr Egan Achievement Award went to Sharon Easton from St Paul's and All Hallows Church of England School

**For more details and a full list of award winners, contact Haringey Council**

**Visit** [haringey.gov.uk](http://haringey.gov.uk)

*"I'm just full of respect and admiration for what people have achieved"*



Actor, writer and broadcaster, Tom Watt



Winners from Devonshire Hill Nursery and Primary School



Performance by Haringey Vox



Award winner, Antonia Wheeler (second from right)



## FEATURE

Community  
Bohem Brewery wins  
Brewers Choice award

Page  
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# My chance to become Miss Guyana UK

Cindy Obiji hopes to bring beauty pageant to Tottenham



Cindy Obiji Credit: Albert St Clair

By Luchia Robinson

Cindy Obiji is getting ready for the competition she's waited the last eight years for.

This year, Mum of two, Cindy, will be taking part in the Miss Guyana UK Beauty Pageant – something she has previously been unable to do, having missed out because of surpassing the competition's upper age bracket. However, as of last year, the age limit was raised to 35, giving Cindy her chance for the crown.

Cindy, who lives in White Hart Lane ward, says that it's not about the winning, because just having the opportunity to enter the pageant is all she wants.

Miss Guyana UK, which is now in its 26th year, receives support from the Guyanese High Commission. It aims to promote the Guyanese culture and

the heritage of the six different ethnic groups: Amerindian, African, Indian, Chinese, Portuguese and European.

Cindy would like to bring the contest to Tottenham. She is calling on support from the local community to secure sponsorship, to make The Selby Centre the location for the event, which will take place in June.

To Cindy, there is no better venue than the Selby Centre. It's the place she sees as her second home, having been made to feel welcome by the staff and community there, after her move to Tottenham in 2018.

Cindy regularly volunteers at Embrace UK Community Support Centre, a charity based at the Selby Centre, which offers advice and guidance to local disadvantaged groups. She also helps out weekly at the centre's food bank, in addition to volunteering at Community Cook Up, a

food initiative based in Northumberland Park, that provides meals to 80-100 people each Thursday.

"Growing up, I didn't have a lot and it was a struggle," said Cindy.

"When volunteering at the food bank I can see the struggle some parents face, so it means a lot to me to try and give back and help someone."

Homelessness is a cause that Cindy is also spreading awareness of by connecting local organisations, and sourcing donations from businesses for events hosted within the community.

Cindy says her community work and entering Miss Guyana UK remind her of her Mum who was murdered when she was 15.

"My Mum was very much involved in the community and helping others, so doing this is representing Guyana, it's representing my background,

it's representing my culture, it's representing my family.

"This was a way of showcasing what I'm about and saying thank you. The work that I'm doing volunteering is carrying on my Mum's legacy, and that's why I'm very much involved in the Haringey community, doing as much as I can to support and help others like she did."

Cindy will be showcasing the Indian cultural side of her Indian-African heritage in the contest (in memory of her Mum, who raised her within the Hindu culture), by wearing traditional Indian dress and performing a dance. She will also need to wear swimwear and an evening gown, which will be scored by the judging panel.

Challenges to Cindy's journey to the pageant have come in the form of getting knockbacks when seeking sponsor-

ship, and the years of emailing the competition organisers to raise the age limit.

Cindy says: "I'm the kind of person who knows that rejection will come, but if you want it, you have to go for it – I say that to a lot of young girls that I meet."

"I'm an example to them that you shouldn't give up on your dreams. Sometimes people will get things easily, but not everyone does."

"There's one man in particular who gave me a chance, and he is Mike Harrison, he runs a shipping company. He is my official sponsor for Miss Guyana UK, and he's been a great support."

"Also, the Selby Centre Boxing Club are sponsoring my fitness. For me, this is community."

"It hasn't been easy, but it's been worth it so far."

**"If you want it, you have to go for it"**

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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# Tottenham's trees by Stephen Furner

Tottenham has some amazing trees and green spaces that often go unrecognised by people speeding past in their cars or rushing from place to place on foot, heads down trying to check

their social media. There is much to be gained by occasionally just stopping or just slowing down to look around and enjoy the beauty of the green spaces around us.





## COMMUNITY

# Bohem Brewery brew up an award win



Co-founder and head brewer, Petr Skocek (centre)

By Petr Skocek, Co-founder & Head Brewer of Bohem Brewery

**W**e were totally delighted to win Best New Brewery at the prestigious Brewers Choice Awards 2019.

The Brewers Choice Awards are given by leading industry magazine *Brewers' Journal* to recognise the diversity and quality of the UK craft beer and brewing scene.

We received the award for our success in growing from 'kitchen

sink home brewing' to a bespoke brewing kit and 60,000 litres of fermenting capacity in only 18 months. The judges also praised our 'dedication to solely producing authentic bohemian lagers.'

We founded Bohem Brewery in

early 2017 – “we” being two expat Czech brewers, Zdenek Kudr and myself Petr Skocek.

Day-to-day, it's myself as head brewer, supported by my fellow brewer Matej Krizek. Trained tapster, Marek Průša serves our lagers in the authentic Czech style at our Bowes Park taproom. We also have a small group of friends who are investors in the brewery and help out when they're needed.

Our brewery is in an industrial unit on West Road, not far from White Hart Lane. We moved here in early 2018, and for us, it's a little piece of Czech brewing culture in north London. We brew authentic Bohemian-style lagers on brewing kit imported from the Czech Republic.

We brew our lagers in a range of styles, all of which are stored – or lagered – at low temperature for a minimum of five weeks. It's this process that gives real lager its depth and complexity of flavour – but it's also expensive. I think other brewers try to cost-engineer lagering out of lager, we celebrate

it! That's what gives us our edge.

London is a great place to live and work, and has a wonderful craft beer culture. We wanted to brew the style of beer that we love, and we could see that there was a gap in the market. There are plenty of breweries in London, but no one else doing what we do in terms of beer style, so we bring something different. As for Tottenham, we love this buzzing area and we Czechs have as strong a passion for football as the Brits, so it's great to be close to such an iconic club.

We feel very much part of this community, and locals certainly enjoy seeing our beers in the area's pubs and bars, or popping into the brewery to pick up a few cans.

Our best-seller is Czech pilsner Amos, our session pils is Victoria. They are both great ways to discover the delights of authentic Bohemian lager brewed in the heart of Tottenham!

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FEATURE

# Around the world in 48 hours

Threads radio raises funds by live streaming non-stop for two days



Luke Thurnham, Head of Outreach, Threads Credit Luchia Robinson

By Luchia Robinson

This month marks the first anniversary of Threads, the community radio station based in Tottenham Hale.

Located above the club, The Cause, in Ashley Road, N17, Threads curates a broad range of audio content, and gives a platform to diverse voices both locally and abroad.

Last month, for the first time, Threads worked with a sponsor (RepostExchange) to put on Threads 48: a 48-hour, non-stop streaming of audio content streamed over two channels. The first stream, which was live from the Tottenham studio consisted of live performances, DJ mixes and discussions. These focussed on various topics including: the documentation of Grime; the relationship between mental health and creative expression; community spaces and their survival.

Stream two was broadcast live from 24 international locations, including: Brazil, Canada, Japan, and the Balkans. “What we’re trying to do is highlight communities around the world, so being ‘globally local’. It’s a kind of good side to globalism, the fact that you can tune into these communities that you

may never know exist,” said George Powell, Head of Operations.

“The 48 live stream is a way for us to say ‘this is what we can do, this is what we want to do,’ but we just can’t do it at the moment.”

Threads 48 was part of a Crowdfunder set up to raise funds for new equipment

and provisions in preparation for the station’s relocation in the coming months, as part of the ongoing process of redevelopment in Tottenham Hale.

Although the Threads team of volunteers are still unsure of where they will be heading to next, they are certain that Tottenham is the best location.



Credit Luchia Robinson

“We asked for £7,500 and that ideally will go towards funding things such as a second set of studio equipment, so we can offer a lot more to people who want to be involved in live radio,” said Luke Thurnham, Head of Outreach.

content for years to come, and to give us a little bit of support for when the inevitable [move] happens. All these things will help for what will be a very seminal time for us. “There’s two sides to it, on the one hand £5,500

*“What we’re trying to do is highlight communities around the world”*

“We also need to find some way of securing our own financial stability. If we can do that through the resources we have in-house, then we’ve got control over what it is we’re doing as a station.”

Threads would like to run DJ and educational programmes, and pre-record services to ensure that the station becomes sustainable. The team also want to offer free activities for members of the community who may not have financial access.

Freddie Sugden, Founder of Threads said: “We have raised £5,500. It has the potential to really invest into the infrastructure of the station, to buy some equipment that will really allow us to produce better

is an incredible amount of money and we’re really happy to have that, to do all those things I’ve mentioned. On the other hand, it is only a stepping stone to what we’d like to do, and what we need to do, to be able to continue and grow – which is to ultimately have a multi-studio complex in Haringey.”

The team at Threads aim to provide space for people in the community who are doing purposeful and socially impactful things: “People who don’t tend to get much of a space on the airwaves, television or in column inches,” said Luke.

**For more information:**  
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Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authority’s Sub Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations can be emailed to [licensing@haringey.gov.uk](mailto: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.

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**Dated: Thursday 18th of December 2019**  
**Signed: Nicholas Owen**



## COMMUNITY

# Voluntary and Community Sector achievements highlighted at Haringey Expo



Credit: Cameron Fitzwilliam-Grey



Credit: Cameron Fitzwilliam-Grey

**M**ore than 700 people attended the fourth annual Haringey Community and Voluntary Sector Expo which took place at the end of November at Tottenham Town Hall.

This Expo, which was bigger and better than ever, showcased the amazing work and achievements of Haringey's Voluntary and Community Sector, featuring exhibitions and presentations by over 45 organisations working in the borough.

The day provided a good networking opportunity for organisations, and it also allowed members of the public to see and hear more about local services – including health, young people, employment, environment, community safety and volunteering.

Panel discussions brought together decision makers and experts who shared their views and helped to raise awareness on two issues that are important to the people of Haringey.

The first panel discussion covered 'giving and resilience'. It introduced Haringey Giving – a new and independent initiative to enable people to give time, talents and funds to local good causes, and to act on the things that matter to them.

The second, dealt with Safeguarding and modern slavery. Safeguarding addresses the protection of children, young people and adults who are at risk from abuse or neglect. This is

an increasingly concerning topic in Haringey. Modern slavery commonly involves people being trafficked into forced labour in industries such as agriculture, construction, hospitality, manufacturing, car washes and/or being subject to sexual exploitation. Members of the public and representatives from local organisations asked questions, exchanged views with the panel members and helped to identify ways of addressing these issues.

The highlight of the event was the Community Impact Awards which were presented to outstanding individuals, grassroots community groups and voluntary organisations in recognition of their hard work and achievements in changing the lives of Haringey residents.

The awards were presented by Tottenham Hotspur FC Ambassador and former Captain, Gary Mabbutt MBE, and Peter Baker, Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Haringey.

Rachel Hughes, Chair of the Bridge Renewal Trust said: "The annual Expo has become one of the best and most exciting events in Haringey. 2019 has been another huge year and it was great to see residents and partners coming together to celebrate the fantastic work of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Haringey."



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## LITERATURE

# My Name is Why: a memoir by Lemn Sissay

*A journey through the care system and out the other side*

By Karin Lock

If you have ever seen Lemn Sissay on stage, you will know that this is one special performer. Warm, funny and intelligent, his stories will make you laugh and cry simultaneously. His beautiful poetry is blunt and poignant, tinged with pain and sorrow, yet offering hope and humour in its celebration of humanity.

Winner of the 2019 PEN Printer Prize and this year's guest director of the Brighton festival, Lemn is a poet with many accolades to his name. He is Chancellor of Manchester University; has an MBE for literature for five poetry collections; and was the official poet of the 2012 Olympics. Two months ago, he opened Tottenham's first literary festival, reading from his play *Something Dark*.

Experiencing Lemn's powerful performance is to enter a frighteningly dark world of rejection, loneliness and loss. His memoir *My Name is Why* chronicles his traumatic journey through this country's care system from birth to 18 years of age (when he self-

published his first book of poems *Perceptions of the Pen*).

*My Name is Why* opens with 2-day-old Lemn being temporarily left in the care of Wigan social services by his mother, a struggling Ethiopian student. Immediately he is fostered long term by a white Baptist family and his name 'stolen' – he is now called Norman because his social worker has decided (illegally) to rename him.

By age 12, Lemn's position in his ever-growing family is being sabotaged. His parents accuse him of not loving them and ask the Institution to 'remove' him. He will never hear from them again as he enters the first of several care homes, each one progressively more abusive. Without photographs to prove his existence, Lemn starts to write poems.

*"Well, I am a poet and it is my life. I would slit my wrist with a pen not a knife. Well, I am a poet from now until then. My life is my paper, my knife is my pen."*

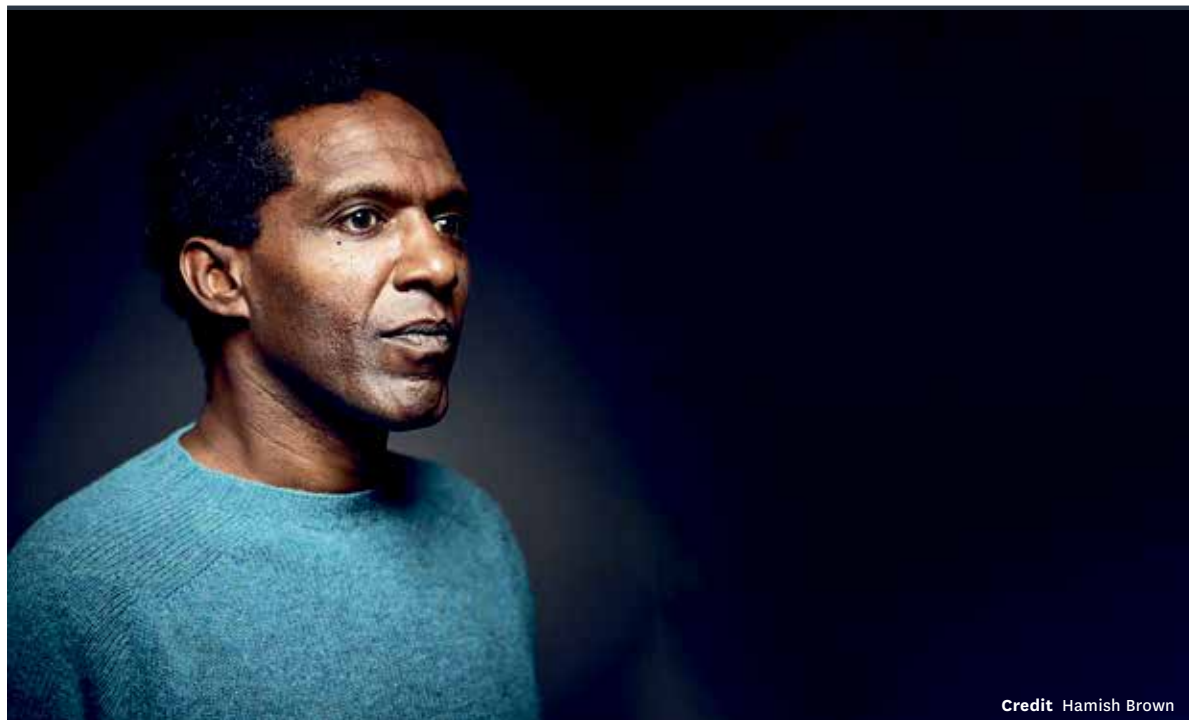
This heart-wrenching memoir has the suspense of a detective novel. The reader pieces together an array

of autobiographical fragments from social worker visits, parental letters and school reports. The Authority loves paperwork yet neglects to tell Lemn the truth about his past. *"Secrets are the stones. That sink the boat. Take them out look at them. Throw them out and float."*

*My Name is Why* is a powerful book that exposes the oppressive and loveless residential institutions of the seventies and eighties. Like Lemn, many children were traumatised and experienced severe mental health distress because of their brutal experiences. Those homes may now be gone; but the challenges of being in care still remain.

As a voice for care-experienced children, Lemn tirelessly campaigns to improve their representation. His success is linked to this grassroots activism and word-of-mouth publicity. He has also paved the way for poetry to be appreciated as public art, with the capacity to 'save lives' and instigate change, on a personal and societal level: *"Look what was sown by the stars. At night across the fields. I am not defined by my scars. But by the incredible ability to heal."*

*"My Name is Why is a powerful book that exposes the oppressive and loveless residential institutions of the seventies and eighties"*



Credit Hamish Brown

## POETRY CORNER

### Café Fragments #6

by Terry Egan

Look, love, at this fly –  
how it pants at the window pane,  
all that sky unveiled,  
all that sunshine, to its yearning.  
But something – nothing's – in the way;  
that air, that space, look!  
and yet it can't fly into it,  
can't progress one inch...

Am I not like that,  
dreaming here over my coffee?  
your beauty's glamour  
all laid out in front of me, look!  
that blushing cheek the mouth's red kiss  
unrolls itself from,  
those eyes that come down it like stars  
deigning to appear

so that I'm dazzled?  
And yet, and yet... O! How I can't  
do a single thing.  
There it is, your dimple's promise,  
and aren't I still on some glass pane?

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(Lantern workshop at 2.00pm)  
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## YOUTH

# Earlsmead Primary School pupils run The Daily Mile with Eliud Kipchoge and Spurs' Victor Wanyama



Running a mile  
Credit The Daily Mile

primary schools across London to take part in The Daily Mile since October 2018. The initiative is now a regular fixture of the school day, with up to 245,000 school-children taking part in The Daily Mile across London.

***“This truly is a fantastic event to encourage children to get more involved in sport”***

Tottenham Hotspur Foundation supports The Daily Mile in schools across Haringey and Enfield, as part of its commitment to increasing participation in sport and making physical activity a regular habit for people living in the Club's local community.

Mayor of Haringey, Cllr Sheila Peacock, said: “We were thrilled to have Eliud and Victor here with Haringey children – what an amazing inspiration for our young people. The Daily Mile are making a real difference in our borough as we all work together to keep children in Haringey active. As a former head teacher, I know the impact visits like this can make. It's been a wonderful day that I know our young people won't forget.”

**H**istory-maker, Eliud Kipchoge and Spurs' mid-fielder, Victor Wanyama ran The Daily Mile with Tottenham school pupils in a bid to inspire children across the capital to get moving.

The Daily Mile is a children's health and fitness initiative, with more than 2.3 million children taking part across 72 countries.

The Daily Mile Foundation joined forces with Eliud Kipchoge, London Marathon Events and Tottenham Hotspur Foundation, last month, to host a flagship event that saw 120 local pupils from Earlsmead Primary School run The Daily Mile.

The event championed the defining message that 15 minutes of daily activity is life changing for the health and wellbeing of everyone, regardless of age, ability, or personal circumstance.

Eliud Kipchoge has been involved with the initiative since May 2019. Since becoming the first person to run a marathon in under two hours, Kipchoge has been awarded BBC Sports Personality 'World Sport Star of the Year' 2019 and has recently announced his participation in the 2020 Virgin Money London Marathon.

Eliud Kipchoge said: “It is a great honour to be here with Victor today. As a Daily Mile ambassador and fan of Spurs, I wouldn't have missed it for the world. This truly is a fantastic event to encourage children to get more involved in sport and promote the importance of regular exercise.”

London Marathon Events has been working with The Daily Mile Foundation, which is supported by chemical company, INEOS, the Mayor of London and Healthy Schools London, to encourage





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