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Local news that matters to you

Wards Corner process scrutinised

Councillors say traders' concerns not addressed



Protesters march along Tottenham High Road Credit: Stephen Furner

By Luchia Robinson

Haringey's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) panel has made a number of recommendations in response to regeneration plans for the Wards Corner site, where Seven Sisters Indoor Market (also referred to as the Latin Village), is based.

The OSC review criticised the council for not adequately addressing concerns raised by the Latin market traders (in letters from 2016-2018), which include the poor maintenance

of the market, and the misconduct of the Market Facilitator.

The review states that traders' complaints were not formally reported (by the town centre, council representative) to senior members of the council's planning department. This inaction is deemed a breach of the Section 106 agreement that was put in place by Haringey Council and property developer Grainger PLC in 2011.

A Market Facilitator was appointed in May 2016 as a condition of the Section 106 agreement, which has a

duty towards public sector equality. A steering group was also formed (in October 2016) to support the traders through the redevelopment process, which includes the proposed demolishing and repositioning of the market, and the construction of 196 homes.

However, it is reported that the Market Facilitator also became the Director of Market Asset Management Ltd (market operator) leaving the traders without independent representation at the

steering group meetings.

The OSC reports this conflicting situation to be a factor in the breakdown of dialogue between the traders and developer. It recommends that Grainger PLC appoints an independent facilitator (the appointed Market Facilitator stepped down from the role last November), in full consultation with the market traders.

It also suggests a reconsideration of how Section 106 conditions are both enforced and monitored, par-

ticularly when concerning communities with protected characteristics.

Grainger PLC contests the accuracy of the OSC report. Jonathan Kiddle, Senior Development Manager, told TCP:

"The report provides no evidence that any legal obligations to market traders or the wider community were breached and we hope the many inaccuracies and misleading statements in the report about Grainger's work in Seven Sisters will be corrected in full."

At a deputation into the scrutiny of Wards Corner last month, Save Latin Village representative, and former Haringey Councillor, Stuart McNamara suggested that there needs to be: 'genuinely independent' round table discussions; a proper consideration of the Community Plan (the resident led, alternative proposal to restore the site); removal of the market operator and a thorough investigation into its practices; a proper consideration of what happens to Wards Corner; and for there to be an appropriate support mechanism in place to support the market traders.

Fellow campaigner, Javie Huxley added: "The council needs to stop persecuting traders within the Latin Village, and constantly pretending that everything is okay, because at the moment we have a 100% migrant community that is suffering at the hands of the developers. "It makes me emotional that we have to keep saying how important this cultural hub is for people of colour in Tottenham."

Haringey Council says it has set up The Policy Advisory Group (PAG), a member led initiative, supported by an independent market expert who

Continued on Page 4

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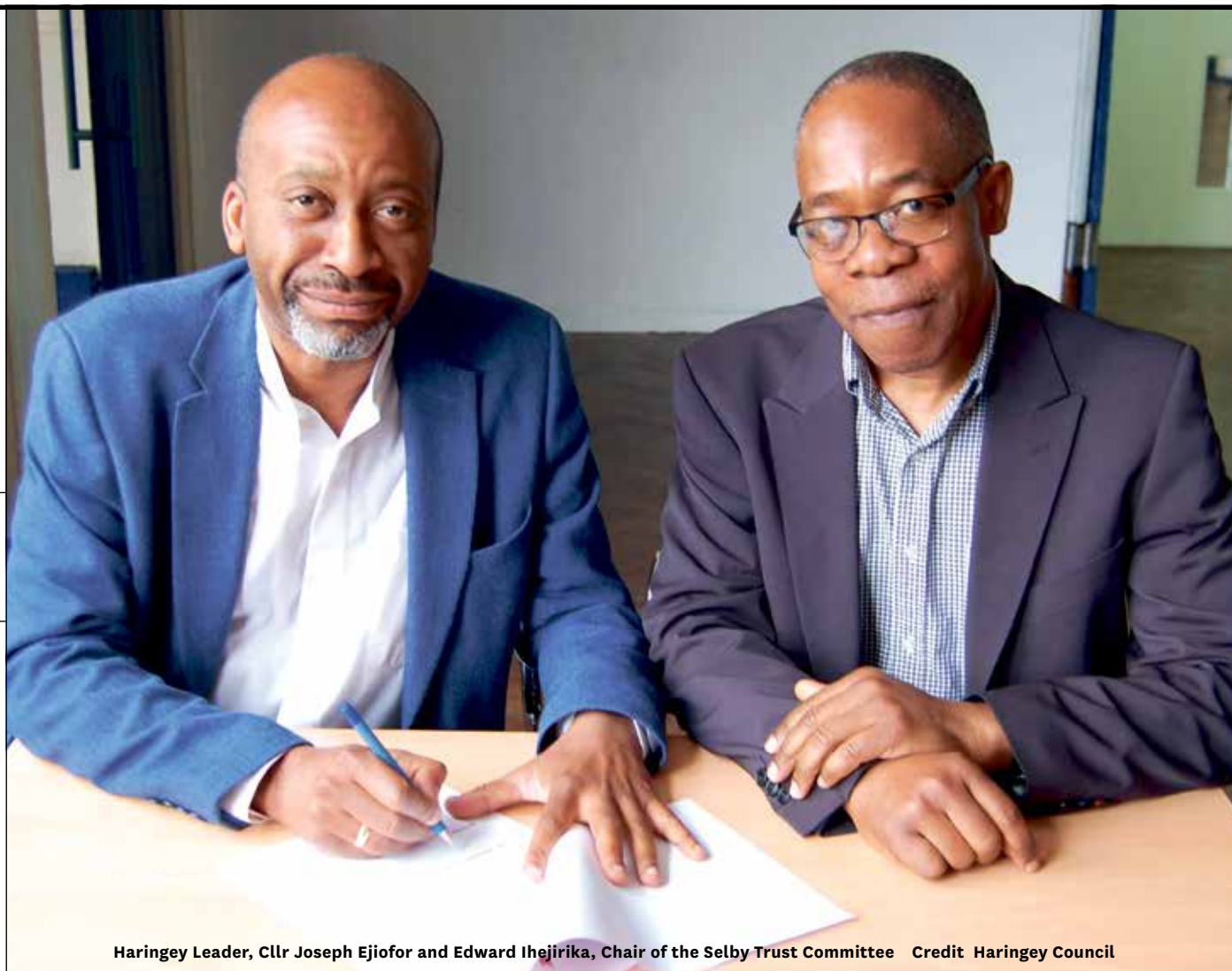
Colin Bowen, Contributor

NEWS

New homes and hub planned for Selby Centre site

Selby Urban Village to provide 200 homes

“Both the council and the Selby Trust are committed to working together to ensure the urban village delivers for our diverse ethnic and social communities”



Haringey Leader, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor and Edward Ihejirika, Chair of the Selby Trust Committee Credit Haringey Council

A plan for homes, a community space and leisure facilities in Tottenham has been unveiled, with Haringey Council teaming up with the Selby Trust to deliver a new urban village. Still in the early stages, the Selby Urban Village will deliver at least 200 new homes, with an expectation that at least half of these will be council homes at council rents.

The plan includes a new purpose-built Selby Centre community hub, and new sports and recreation facilities in the adjacent Bull Lane playing fields.

Back in March 2019, the council and the Selby Trust signed a Memorandum of Understanding which set out joint aspirations and new ways

of working to ensure the re-provision and development of the Selby site.

Following agreement from cabinet last month, masterplanners have been appointed to commence design proposals and will start engagement with the current providers and users of the Selby Centre, as well as the local community. A preferred design option will be presented in autumn 2020.

Councillor Joseph Ejiofor, Leader of

Haringey Council, said: “The Selby Urban Village project is the first regeneration project that this administration has been involved with from the beginning. It is our gold standard when it comes to delivering change in the borough.

“It will deliver homes, community facilities and business space to help our current residents and communities thrive. It shows exactly how we intend to work with local communities in the future; where change takes place, it will

be in partnership with those communities affected – and for their benefit.

“Both the council and the Selby Trust are committed to working together to ensure the Urban Village delivers for

our diverse ethnic and social communities and I am thrilled it has taken this great step forward.”

The chair of the Selby Trust committee, Mr Edward Ihejirika said: “Working with the council and our partners we’re excited to be part of the co-design and delivery of the village including the new building in which the Trust and its users can really thrive and continue to be a valued asset to the community.”

“It will be in partnership with those communities affected – and for their benefit”

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NEWS

Lee Valley Regional Park wins multiple awards

Tottenham Marshes is one of seven conservation sites within the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority to have won an award in the London in Bloom Awards.

The Authority won six gold and one silver award under the 'Conservation', 'Large Conservation', 'Heritage Garden' and 'Large Park of the Year' categories.

The other winning sites were: Walthamstow Marshes, Myddelton House Gardens, Waltham Abbey Gardens, WaterWorks Centre Nature Reserve, Gunpowder Park and Bow Creek Ecology Park.

Dave Hutley, Parklands Manager said, "We're delighted with this year's London in Bloom wins which recognise the quality of what we do from east London out to Essex.

"The winning sites are home to a variety of flora and fauna and historically important artefacts and are hugely valued popular open spaces, attracting visitors from far and wide."

The Authority's Active Communities department, responsible for promoting and developing sports and outdoor fun and family-friendly activities across the park, now also holds the Quest Active Communities Award – the UK leisure industry's recognised quality assurance tool.

Both the Youth and Schools Service and the Events teams



Award winners Credit Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

scored 'good', whilst the Sports Development team has been awarded 'Quest Stretch Outstanding' – one of only four organisations across the country to receive such an award.

"This is the first time both the Events Team and Youth and Schools Service have been through the Quest Assessment process and the events team is the first one in the country to achieve this accreditation," said Dan Buck, Head of Sport and Leisure.

"The assessors were impressed with the standards both teams have maintained over the last two years and look forward to seeing them continue to succeed in future assessments."



Continued From Page 1

has been working with all stakeholders to find a way to run the market in a way that works for them all.

It also says it has secured a number of agreements for the traders at the temporary market (to be located at the former Apex House site, Seven Sisters) during any redevelopment, and afterwards when re-established back at the original Wards Corner location. This includes providing equivalent space under current licenses.

Councillor Joseph Ejiofor, Leader of Haringey Council, said: "Wards Corner is the gateway to Tottenham. Nobody could look at what is there and believe that this should be the future for the next 20 years. The future must be better for residents, businesses and the traders.

"New homes and an energetic town centre are the right ambition for Seven Sisters and this will create a wider economic benefit for businesses in this part of Tot-

tenham. The Latin market traders are an integral part of that future.

"Let's be clear. The Council does not own the land that the market is on. That belongs to Transport for London. Nor is the market being destroyed. Instead, Haringey Council is committed to securing the long-term future for this Latin Village market at Seven Sisters.

Haringey Cabinet will formally respond to the OSC report this month.

Council implements Insourcing Policy

In-house delivery of public services

By Luchia Robinson

Haringey Council will in-source its services when existing outsourced contracts for public works come up for renewal.

In doing this, the Council claims that the financial and social value of spends will be maximised, there will be an increase in the number of local people employed at the Local Authority and secure accountability of public services will be ensured.

This new in-house approach will be phased in, following the production of an implementation plan that will be agreed by Cabinet by March 2020.

Although now prioritising the in-house delivery of services, the Council says its decisions to commission third party providers, extend current contracts or work with other public sector organisations, will

be made on a sustainable and legal basis, and according to value and the quality of service delivered.

Cllr Joseph Ejiofor, Leader of Haringey Council, said: "We are moving to reverse at a local level the almost 40-year national drive towards outsourcing – it won't be easy. But it is vital that we offer local services for local people, make sure every penny that we spend achieves maximum benefit for the community, and increase quality job opportunities and conditions for residents.

"In Haringey we have a strong starting point: we have retained in-house many services which have been outsourced elsewhere and have made good progress in bringing more services in-house. Where we do procure, 25% of our contract expenditure already goes to local businesses. The introduction of this policy signals our commitment to build on this work."

"We are moving to reverse at a local level the almost 40-year national drive towards outsourcing – it won't be easy."

Council pledges 24hr Hate Crime Graffiti Removal Service

Haringey Council pledges to remove discriminatory hate crime graffiti targeted towards any faith group or community organisation in the borough.

Writing in a public letter, Cllr Seema Chandwani, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cllr Mark Blake, Cabinet Member for Communities said: "Haringey is one of the most wonderfully diverse areas in the UK and the overwhelming majority who reside in the borough both value and celebrate this diversity with us.

"However, we understand that the current climate is unfortunately

leading to a rise in Hate Crime. Regrettably, this may mean your buildings are targeted because of the groups in our community you work with. We wanted to firstly reassure you that we at Haringey Council take

racism, hate crime and other matters that impact community cohesion extremely seriously."

The Hate Crime Graffiti Removal service aims to remove reported offensive graffiti within 24 hours, at no cost to the affected organisation.

You can report offensive graffiti by calling Veolia on 0208 885 7700 (Monday-Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm) or email enquiries. haringey@veolia.com

"We understand that the current climate is unfortunately leading to a rise in Hate Crime"

Haringey Borough FC abandon game following racist abuse



Goalkeeper Valery Pajetat Credit Stephen Furrer

By Luchia Robinson

Haringey Borough FC abandoned their FA Cup tie against Yeovil Town last month, following reports of racial abuse from Yeovil Town fans.

The home game at Coles Park was stopped when Haringey goalkeeper Valery Pajetat was spat at and hit by an object. Defender Coby Rowe was also targeted with racist comments, prompting club manager, Tom Loizou to take the team off the pitch in the second half.

Tom Loizou said: "I took a look into my players eyes and I saw straight away how frightened a few of them looked and how distressed Coby Rowe was, and that was the reason I took them off."

Speaking to PA Sport, Haringey Borough's Chairman, Aki Achillea

said: "I am of the view that we had no choice. We could not carry on and play football."

He added: "It is soul-destroying because of the effort we've put in, to encourage so many people from our area, from so many cultures, to come and watch what we have on offer."

"We have a multitude of West Indians, Africans, Portuguese. We have virtually every nationality as part of the playing squad, and to see them have to be subjected to that, it is soul-destroying.

"Our players' heads had gone, there were people with tears in their eyes in the dressing room. These are young kids and they shouldn't be subjected to that.

"Ultimately the impact upon them was such that they couldn't carry on and play football, because it's gone beyond football.

"It's gone beyond football"

"I'm really, really disappointed for the way it worked out for all of us. To have it wrecked by what was definitely a very small minority of people who attach themselves to the club and call themselves fans.

"But they're not the real Yeovil fans, we know that."

Both teams walked back onto the pitch together after the game.

Yeovil Town say they will not accept racism and discrimination in any form. A statement from the FA echoed this, stating that it was 'working with the match officials and the relevant authorities, as a matter of urgency, to fully establish the facts and take the appropriate steps.'

Yeovil Manager, Darren Sarll told BBC Sport: "We, footballers and managers, get a lot of abuse but no one should feel discriminated against when they come to play football.

"I feel we've done the right thing, and I'm not going to feel anything other than proud in terms of the way the players conducted themselves."

At the time of going to print, police had confirmed that two men aged 23 and 26 had been arrested on suspicion of racially aggravated common assault.



Haringey Borough FC at Coles Park Credit Stephen Furrer

NEWS

Credit Kooth



New online mental health support service launched

Anonymous mental health support available to children and young people in Haringey

Haringey Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has commissioned an online counselling service, Kooth, to provide free and anonymous mental health support to children and young people in the borough.

The service will give 11-18 year olds (and some up to 25 years old, who may, for example, be looked after or with special educational needs), access to online counselling and emotional wellbeing support. There will be with no waiting lists or thresholds for receiving help.

Used by the majority of London boroughs, Kooth provides young people with easy access to peer-to-peer support, moderated forums, goal setting and counsellor messaging from any connected device, 365 days a year. Forum topics range from eating disorders and exam stress to suicide ideation and knife crime.

Young people can also drop-in

or book a one-to-one online 'chat' session with a trained counsellor between 12.00pm and 10.00pm on weekdays, and from 6.00pm and 10.00pm at weekends.

Dr David Masters GP lead for Children and Young People at Haringey CCG said: "The CCG is committed to providing children and young people in Haringey with more choice and better access to mental health services when they need it.

"We know that some young people might feel more comfortable with seeking support online and so we are delighted to be commissioning an option which offers quick and safe access to a range of resources that will support their emotional development, resilience and wellbeing."

Kooth is an additional offer for children and young people and does not replace local services that provide direct support offline.

Instead the service, which is part of

Haringey's local plans to improve access to social, emotional and mental health, will work closely with other mental health organisations, including specialist child and adolescent mental health services in the local area.

Cllr Zena Brabazon, Haringey Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Families, said: "When young people face challenges or stressful times, it is vital that they have the support they need. In Haringey we are proud to play a role in supporting our young residents with their mental health. Kooth offers quick and easy access around the clock and I would encourage young people to take a look. My message is: If you are struggling, don't hesitate – there is help available."

For more information about this service or to access:

Visit kooth.com

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BY JAMES CRACKNELL

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Awards season

Owner of Zenith Motorcycles shortlisted for Women in Business award

Karen Neill, owner of Zenith Motorcycles in Markfield Road, N15, and the only woman in the UK to own and run a motorbike garage, has been shortlisted for a Women in Business award, in the Lifetime Achievement category.

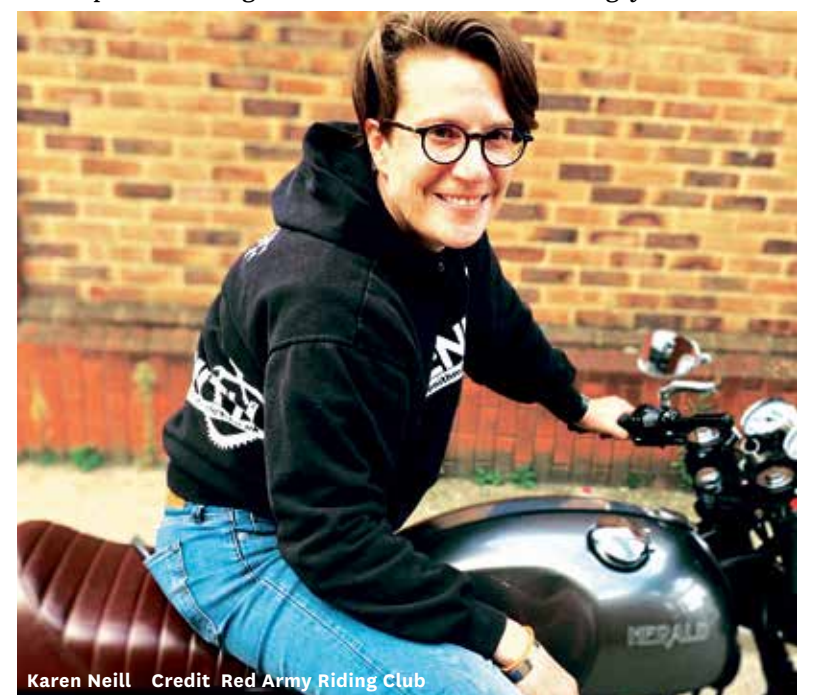
Reacting to the nomination, Karen said: "I'm thrilled and honoured to be nominated for this award. At Zenith Motorcycles we don't do what we do for awards, wonderful though they are, but because we are here to serve our community and the London we love.

"Tottenham is the spiritual birthplace of British motorcycling as we know it, and I'm proud to have devoted a lifetime to being part of that important heritage."

Over the last few years, Zenith Motorcycles has hosted dozens of young people for work experience, many of them from disadvantaged backgrounds, and some with disabilities.

Karen encourages women to take up motorcycling, she campaigns against motorcycle theft, promotes road safety education, and has raised over £80,000 for good causes by hosting or participating in many charity events.

In 2017 Karen became the only woman to win Britain's Biking Hero Award. Her work within the community has also been recognised locally by Haringey Council, who have presented her with two awards: 'Haringey Hero' and the 'Unsung Women of Haringey.'



Karen Neill Credit Red Army Riding Club

How losing weight helped me gain confidence

My journey from Slimming World member to group consultant

By Carol Little-Ouchrif

I attended my first Slimming World group in January 2017 after the birth of my second child. I felt nervous and uncomfortable, but from the moment I walked into the group I was welcomed and put at ease. I weighed 17 stone, 12 pounds.

My motivation for losing weight was to be fit and healthy for my children. I found it hard to keep up with my 3-year-old when playing in the park, then there was a newborn to add to the equation. I had started feeling very self-conscious and I didn't feel like going out and socialising with my friends anymore.

As a paediatric nurse, I always felt uncomfortable talking to people about their health, and promoting healthy eating and lifestyle choices while I was overweight.

Slimming world is about food optimising, it's a lifestyle change and not a diet. I listened in disbelief as the consultant explained that I could eat potatoes, pasta and rice whilst still losing weight. Nothing was off limits and I could eat as much as I liked. But I was sure after many failed attempts of trying to lose weight that it would not work.

One week later I stepped on the scales in

group and I was delighted to see an 8lb loss. The whole first week I had enjoyed food and did not feel hungry once. This spurred me on and I continued to lose weight at a steady pace.

I got to my target weight this January, losing a total of 7 stone 13lbs. I now have a new confidence and I use my experience to show people that lifestyle change is possible.

The latest government figures reveal that around one in four adults are obese and it is estimated that by 2034, this will increase to one in three.

I will be opening my own slimming group on Friday, 22nd November, and I can't wait to get started. After my own weight loss, it is a privilege to be able to pass on the experience, insight and understanding that helped me.

Support is really the most important thing. It all starts with feeling that you're not alone. I couldn't have lost over seven stone without the weekly help, encouragement and understanding of my own consultant and group.

I personally know the challenges people can face, which is why, along with the group, I will be there to support every one of my members all the way to their chosen target

weight. There will be tons of encouragement and fun. As a consultant it is my role to create a warm, supportive atmosphere to get people sharing their ideas and experiences in order to help others.

I am opening my group in Tottenham as this is where I live, and it is really important to me to be able to help the community I care about deeply.



Carol Little-Ouchrif
Credit: Jan Winter



Credit: Donna Little

Carol's Slimming World group launches on Friday, 22nd November. It takes place on Friday mornings at 9.30am at Kemble Hall, Kemble Road, off Lansdowne Road, N17 9UJ. For more details, call Carol on: 07930 411 996.

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PHOTOGRAPHY



Photographs by Stephen Furner



COMMUNITY

Coffee and conversations

Discussion and support services for members of the Somali community

Discussing serious youth crime at a coffee morning drop-in session Credit: Yonis Jama



By Awale Elmi, Director, RISE Projects

RISE Project's Coffee Morning and Drop-in Support sessions act as a safe space for women and mothers in the Somali community to share information and build a network of support.

The sessions serve to create better integration between service providers and service users, ensuring hard to reach Somali women get to find out about education and employment opportunities.

The sessions, which are part of a two-year programme (funded by the Evening Standard's Dispossessed Fund and London Community Foundation) provide a platform for attendees to become informed and have productive discussions.

Each session is based on a particular theme, and we have covered topics that include, housing and digital resilience. We have worked with Citizens Advice Haringey, providing information on Universal Credit, and also with Haringey Metropolitan Police Service on understanding the drivers of knife crime and the impact of serious youth violence in the community.

Attendees have also networked and supported one another with valuable community-based information. As a result, we have found that the women are also more confident about accessing services because they are better informed.

One of the outcomes of the Coffee Morning and Drop-in Support Sessions has been the creation of a parents' forum, which aims to empower the community, as well as working towards the increased representation of members of the Somali community in visible posts within Haringey.

"We have a forum where we can talk about things that are important to us and our families"

These types of sessions are scarce. They provide a voice to parents who are dealing with a wide variety of social pressures and issues, and who would not have been heard elsewhere.

We have seen first-hand how crucial the sessions are in bringing the community together with services providers, as we have successfully paired parents looking for work with employers, by simply providing information.

Attendee, Safia Mohamed said: "Before this, we were a bit out of the loop and voiceless but now we have a forum where we can talk about things that are important to us and our families."

"The good thing is, others are able to relate to what's being discussed and people from different organisations or even Haringey Council attend the coffee mornings and hear our voices directly- and it's important that they do, or nothing will change otherwise."

The Coffee Morning and Drop-in Support Sessions take place between 10.00am-12.00pm on the third Tuesday of each month, at the Tottenham Living Room, located at the Trampery, 639 High Road N17 8AA

Giving back

By Colin Bowen,
Director of Haringey Giving

Many people in Haringey experience disadvantage and face challenges in their lives. However, local people and businesses often don't know about the amazing good causes that are right on their doorstep or how to support them.

We at Haringey Giving are on an exciting journey and we want to support communities to take action and make improvements on the things that matter to them.

We are an ambitious new partnership of residents and businesses who have come together to increase opportunity and wellbeing in Haringey, after extensive local consultation.

We have three priorities which are shaped by local data, engagement with residents and communities: Children and Young People, Mental Health, and Skills and Enterprise.

The funds Haringey Giving raises will go out to local good causes from January 2020 through two programmes: Changing Lives – which offers grants from £10 to £500 to enable people experiencing disadvantage to take action and overcome a barrier that will improve their quality of life or life chances. These grants could be used to, for example: enable a young person to buy clothes for a job interview; support a mum with mental health difficulties; or pay for sign language training to enable a young person to support someone with communication needs.

Together We Can – provides grants from £500 to £10,000 which could enable a group of residents to clean up an untidy area where they live, or set up a support group for socially isolated parents.

We will be running the Haringey Big Give Christmas Challenge 2019 from 3-10th December, and every pound donated by the public, businesses and funders during this time will be doubled up to a total of £75,000. All money raised will be focussed on the Tottenham area.

We want to enable local people to give their time, talents and funds to support local good causes. There are many ways that Tottenham residents and businesses can take part, and we welcome any suggestions.

Find out more about Haringey Giving and the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2019 visit haringeygiving.org.uk or find us on social media @HaringeyGiving



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COMMUNITY

Book review

Karen McCombie talks about her book, *Little Bird Flies*

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Bootcamp with a difference

Keeping fit whilst forming bonds



Training session Credit Luchia Robinson

By Luchia Robinson

A new bootcamp offering local women a safe place to train, get fit and bond has started at the Selby Centre.

Taking place four nights a week, the gym training sessions, run by

coach Neves Mabu, combine exercise with discussion. At the end of each session, the women join in the boxing ring to talk about things and share advice, if they chose.

Department Manager, Ellie joined bootcamp to lose the weight she

had gained following stress after a bereavement.

"It's encouraging me to be myself again, to love myself again, and to be the better version of myself," she said about the class.

The combination of the sessions



Credit Luchia Robinson

being affordable, at an ideal time after work, and a place where the women can exercise without feeling self-conscious, have been the main reasons for the class' recent growth.

"Everybody in the class has lost weight," said Coach Neves.

"We want results and I'm here to give them results."

Anita, a Category Manager, said: "I come here because I'm tired of getting slept on (being overlooked). Unfortunately, even with the body positivity movement, the world still chips [away] at bigger women.

"We get together, we make jokes, we keep each other going – it's

somehow building a sistership.

"Everybody assumes that to be the perfect type of woman, it comes with a certain appearance. I've been fine so far, but when you see opportunities pass you by, not just because of your race, but because of your weight as well, you have to stop waiting in the corridor and start kicking down doors."

Bootcamp takes place at the Selby Centre, Selby Road, N17 8JL, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. From 8.30-9.30pm. £5.00 per session. All abilities welcome.



Kaz Foncette Credit Nikolai Sangrenegra

Frocking Cancer Diary: Afternoon tea on the Green

By Kaz Foncette

When I first moved back to Tottenham, I thought being closer to the centre of town would offer me (as a cancer patient) access to local support groups or events. I was wrong. Haringey offered me nothing. Whilst everyone was out at work, I was in isolation – buying clothes or window shopping – that was my happy place.

I count myself lucky when it comes to direct family support: soup prepared when I'm unwell, lifts to the hospital and more recently, prompts to take new heart medication. The cancer treatment keeping me alive made the heart that's keeping me alive, fail. The irony. But worrying my family about my illness and all the problems that follow is not what I wish to do. Online forums are often overwhelming and I try to avoid clin-

ical settings because, well, nobody likes hospitals.

November is the month when the fireworks pop and don't stop for several weeks. It's also the beginning of Movember, where thousands take part in growing their moustaches (even my mother in law stops tweezing) to raise awareness about various men's health issues, including Breast Cancer. People forget that men can get it too.

The Christmas adverts for presents and family gatherings will also begin, but for people living with cancer, it may be the time of year we find most difficult. Worrying about the pressures of buying gifts, questioning our mortality whilst maintaining the 'Christmas cheer' – the list is endless.

However, I've always loved Christmas. From visiting the terrible bearded imposter at Wood Green Shopping Centre during my youth,

to putting up a Christmas tree before the pound shops have even stocked their baubles. But my first Christmas with cancer in 2017 was the worst. Surgery results were pending, and my mind was so pre-occupied with fear, I avoided my family and pushed them away.

Since meeting and speaking with others in similar situations, it seemed all too familiar, so this year, my charity Wigs for Heroes is hosting an event at T on the Green Tea Rooms on Wednesday, 18th December.

Anyone local affected by cancer can indulge in a Christmas themed afternoon tea, meet people in similar situations and enjoy the feeling of camaraderie.

I hope it will be the start of bringing people together and ending social isolation within our cancer community.

For tickets: linktr.ee/WigsForHeroes

COMMUNITY

Haringey organisations unite to fight loneliness and isolation



From left to right: Beverley Tarka (Director Adults and Health), Cllr Sarah James (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health), Sharon Grant OBE (Chair of Public Voice), Mark Wynn (Director of Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale Circle), Maureen Johnston (The Silver Line), Camlee Voisin-Baptiste (Senior Commissioning Officer, Housing Related Support), Mike Wilson (Director of Public Voice)

Haringey Reach and Connect is a new, innovative multi-agency service

supporting Haringey residents who are 50+, at risk of social isolation or who have suffered a recent

life event that threatens their wellbeing and independence. It brings together Esther Rant-

zen's charity, The Silver Line, Mind in Haringey, Public Voice, HAIL/Vibrance, Wise Thoughts and the Haringey Over 50s Forum.

The service will be delivered across Haringey by eight 'Community Connectors' providing information, guidance and support to enable local people over 50 to live better lives and build skills, friendship, networks and confidence to achieve their goals. A website and a 24-hour help and support line are also available.

The service was launched at an event at Haringey Civic Centre last month, and speakers included, Councillor Sarah James – Cabinet Member for Adults and Health, who said: "I'm delighted to be launching Haringey Reach and Connect. We know that older people often struggle to remain independent because they feel disconnected, lonely and unsure of where they can seek help. This service will

help combat that.

"The partnership approach will ensure older people from a variety of backgrounds, experiences and identities can access support that's right for them, from local organisations they know and trust."

Sophie Andrews OBE, CEO of The Silver Line, said: "The Silver Line is delighted to be part of the Reach and Connect initiative, helping to inform and empower local people in Haringey and create a stronger community."

"As a charity dedicated to tackling loneliness and social isolation, we recognise how important it is to ensure that people are given the confidence and support to access local services and take a more active role in their communities. We are proud to be involved in this collaborative effort and we hope that together we can achieve real, lasting change for over 50s in Haringey."

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BOOK REVIEW

A journey into the Villas Miserias

Karin Lock reviews *The Fragility of Bodies* by Sergio Olguín

If you have ever seen an Argentinian film (think *Nine Queens*, *White Elephant* or *Secrets in Their Eyes*) you will recognise the dark fatalism that permeates this gripping political thriller. It is no surprise that filmic novel *The Fragility of Bodies* (the first of a trilogy) is now an acclaimed TV series showing across South America, rivalling *Narcos* in terms of viewing figures.

Set in Buenos Aires, the book foregrounds the atmospheric port city, with its uptown avenues, neglected neighbourhoods and boisterous bars. The action opens with the suicide of a municipal train driver who leaves an enigmatic note confessing to four 'accidental' deaths on the tracks. Veronica Rosenthal, a smart hard-nosed journalist who works for a current affairs magazine, senses a sensational story waiting to be told.

Veronica leads a troubled private life. Her uninhibited penchant for

married men keeps her in a self-imposed cycle of disappointment. Yet she is obsessively driven to expose injustice and get her exclusive scoop, undeterred by a lack of witnesses and a rising body count. Her investigation leads her into a dangerous underground world of organised crime, manipulation and murder.

A journalist is only as good as their sources, so our protagonist

the Villas Miserias (shanty towns) of southern Buenos Aires. These hidden, forgotten communities are where migrants from across the continent converge to seek a better life. Here families struggle to steer their children away from the pull of drug dealers and other predators.

The novel is fast-paced, tense, gritty and menacing; the colourful characters exquisitely portrayed.

"The novel is fast-paced, tense, gritty and menacing; the colourful characters exquisitely portrayed"

uses her natural charm to cultivate a group of allies to aid her research. These include married train driver Lucio, as well as a priest, an ex-junkie, an employee from her father's law firm, and her apartment's doorman.

The Fragility of Bodies takes Veronica on an unfamiliar journey into

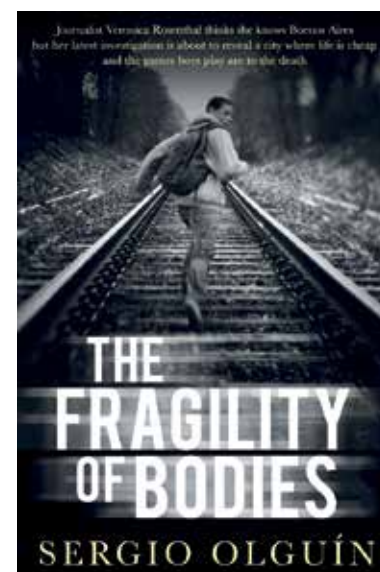
Rivero, the creepy football coach, entices two boys, Dientes and El Peque to join a local five-a-side team with promises of trials at Boca or River Plate, the city's two biggest football clubs. He then suggests they enter an unofficial 'competition' with the chance of making some easy money.

Abuse happens through secrecy, threats and fear; and as this tale unfolds, we may wonder if *The Fragility of Bodies* is based on truth. This is a testament to Olguín's skills as a writer and the realism he injects into his narrative. As an ex-journalist, he knows that in an interview: "sometimes saying nothing is the best question you could ask."

With this novel, Olguín has perfected that hard-boiled naturalistic style of crime fiction or noir, which as a genre, is often described as a 'window into the soul of society.'

Deep within this story, with its dark undercurrents of state corruption, lies the omnipresent traumatic legacy of Argentina's past: military dictatorship, economic default and social decay.

Desperate times lead to desperate measures, and those with power – judges, police, politicians – can be compromised. As one character informs Veronica: "you can cut out a link, but the chain simply



attaches to the next link and continues being a chain." *The Fragility of Bodies* shockingly demonstrates how inequality becomes a gruesome opportunity for the unscrupulous to make money out of other people's misery.

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YOUTH

Fly away to a new land

Book specialist Helen Swinyard talks to local author, Karen McCombie about her latest book, *Little Bird Flies*

What connections do you have to Tottenham (or, North London) and what are your favourite things about it?

I don't live too far away from Tottenham, in fact I can see it clearly from Ally Pally, which I live right beside! I'm a city girl at heart and though I'm from Scotland, I absolutely adore London. But I do love my fix of peacefulness and greenery, and one of my favourite places in north London has to be Tottenham Cemetery, with its gorgeous feel of gothic decay and the Moselle river meandering through it. Bruce Castle is great too, not just the building and the exhibitions inside, but the archive department who work there. They really helped me with research when I was writing *Catching Falling Stars*, a Second World War evacuee novel that's partly set in Haringey, and inspired by oral history of older Tottenham residents who were themselves evacuees.

Why should young people from Tottenham give your book a try? How will they see themselves reflected in it?

People can read historical novels purely for escapism, of course, but so many themes in the past absolutely have relevance now. *Little Bird Flies* is an adventure, but it covers issues like poverty versus power, girls struggling to have a voice in a male-dominated world, and the difficulties of forced migration. There's also a lot about the closeness and struggles my main character Bridie has with friends and family, and friendship and family connections are relatable, whether you're living on a small island in Victorian times or an inner city borough today!

Author, Karen McCombie
Credit: Nosty Crow Books



What were you like as a teenager?

What were your favourite things to do?

I grew up on the fifteenth floor of a multi-storey block in Aberdeen, Scotland. I spent a lot of my time sitting at my bedroom window, staring out at the view of rooftops, city streets and the sea, daydreaming about life, the universe and everything! When I wasn't doing that, I lost myself in books (the library was across the road), art (the art gallery was just along from the library) and music (I was lucky enough to have youth club discos to go to most weekends). I also got a kick out of going to charity shops and jumble sales and customising clothes on my mum's ancient sewing machine.

What advice would you give to any Tottenham teenagers hoping to become writers?

Keep your eyes open and tune into the small stuff. It's easy to think of a main theme of a book, but you have to work hard on the details of your characters and setting, and you can get inspiration for that all around you. I notice interesting people or conversations or random whatevers as I walk along the road or sit gazing out of a bus window. I'm constantly scribbling little notes to myself in a notebook, or taking photos on my mobile. When I go through the notes and photos later, there's lots of rubbish, but plenty of gems to be found too, which I can weave into my stories.

“Keep your eyes open and tune into the small stuff”

Becky Spencer greets youngsters Credit: Tottenham Hotspur



Spurs players celebrate Black History Month with local children

Tottenham Hotspur Foundation lead Black History Month workshop

Local children celebrated Black History Month last month in a workshop delivered by the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation, with Spurs Women goalkeeper Becky Spencer, men's right-back Kyle Walker-Peters and former defender Ledley King.

The session educated students from Ferry Lane Primary School about the black history of both Spurs and the local area.

As part of the workshop, Becky, Kyle and Ledley helped pupils present their learnings on black footballing icons back to the group. Ledley also answered questions about being a role model for young

black people in the community and what Black History Month means to him.

“I am proud to be involved in the Club's support of Black History Month – a campaign that has played such a huge

“It was great to hear more about the black icons that have gone before us and paved the way”

role in promoting diversity and breaking down barriers in society for more than 30 years,” said Ledley.

Becky said: “It's fantastic that local kids are getting the opportunity to celebrate black history in our community

and our sport. Education is so important, and I definitely learned a few things myself!”

Kyle, who grew up in the Tottenham area, added: “It was great to hear more about the black icons that have gone before us and paved the way for where we are now. It's important that we recognise what they had to overcome and how much they've achieved. My main message to the kids is that whatever your background, you can do what you put your mind to.”

The session was one of several workshops being delivered by the Foundation to local primary school students throughout October on the subject of black history in football and in the Tottenham area.

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