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Local news that matters to you

Back, booted, and recruited: Cabinet reshuffle

Haringey Leader, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor confirms Cabinet positions



Haringey Cabinet members Credit: Haringey Council

“I’m pleased to welcome Seema Chandwani and Gideon Bull into the Cabinet, I’ve no doubt that they have the knowledge, passion and experience to drive forward our manifesto commitments and deliver for the residents of Haringey”

By Luchia Robinson

The announcement of Haringey’s 2019/2020 administration by Leader, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor, sees Cllr Zena Brabazon making a return to Cabinet, five months after being sacked.

The Harringay ward councillor was confirmed as both the Deputy Leader of the council, (after defeating Cllr Emine Ibrahim, in a

vote at last month’s Labour AGM), and Cabinet Member for Children and Families.

Cllr Brabazon, was sacked by Cllr Ejiofor, last year (alongside Cllr Peray Ahmet), on New Year’s Eve, in hopes that it would put an end to “persistent personal conflicts”, following the alleged leaking of confidential information to the media.

Cllr Brabazon’s return to her new roles, comes as Hornsey represen-

tative, Cllr Elin Weston was ousted from the position of Lead Member for Children and Families.

Writing to the Leader, in response to her dismissal, Cllr Weston, said: “Your decision was not related to my record in this role. It was not because of an inability to work constructively with colleagues in Cabinet or Group. It was not because of failures within my portfolio.

“Your decision was based on

nothing more than pure internal politics, aimed at safeguarding your own position as Leader.”

Cllr Weston will now support the administration from the backbenches. So too, will Cllr Noah Tucker, who was the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Insourcing– a role that has now ended.

Although no longer Deputy, Cllr Emine Ibrahim remains in the

Cabinet, retaining the Housing and Estate Renewal lead.

Cllr Charles Adje also retains his portfolio in Strategic Regeneration, and additionally takes the lead on Finance– a role previously held by Cllr Patrick Berryman who resigned from the position in March.

Cllr Liz Morris, Leader of Haringey

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COMMUNITY

STEADFAST IN DIFFICULTIES

JUNE 2019 – N°. 23

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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Mural by Carleen De Sözer

Photograph by Karin Lock

As the newly confirmed Cabinet enters its first full month, our page 3 report looks back at Haringey Leader, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor's initial year in charge, outlining the trials and successes that have made up the past twelve months (p.3).

We report on the recently appointed Mayor of Haringey, Cllr Sheila Peacock, as she returns to the role for the fourth time, on page 4.

You can find out why the River Moselle is being celebrated on page 11. Whilst on page 7, women in Haringey are being encouraged to attend cervical screening appointments.

Some local schools have seen changes take shape recently, with Holy Trinity C of E Primary School making alterations to its environment, in efforts to improve air quality (p.5), and Seven Sisters Primary School, having a mini football pitch installed on site (p.6).

Euroart Studios is inviting the public to view artwork that will be on display from 7th-9th June (p.10).

Coffin Club, North London is also extending an invitation, to its launch at the Engine Room, Tottenham Hale—where residents are welcome to come along and discuss matters concerning death, in a sensitive and informal setting.

Exposure contributor, Shafi Hassan describes how his faith has been essential to the forming of his identity

(p.13), and book expert, Helen Swinyard reviews *The Boy at the Back of the Class*—a story that sheds light on the refugee experience (p.14).

Karin Lock also offers a book review, of *Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire* by author, poet and journalist, Akala. This book explores and critiques Britain's imperial connections—past and present (p.12).

If, like Helen and Karin, you have a book that you want to review, or any article ideas, illustrations, photographs or poetry that you would like to share—send your pitches, and artwork through to tcp@socialspider.com for consideration.

If you want to advertise in TCP, or you have any related enquiries, get in touch with our new Advertising Sales Manager, Klaudia Kiss: klaudia@socialspider.com

Klaudia, who joins Social Spider this month will oversee the advertising in TCP and our sister papers, *Waltham Forest Echo* and *Enfield Dispatch*.

Luchia Robinson, Editor

I'm Joyce Rosser, and I have been involved in a range of Haringey community groups—residents groups, friends of parks, civic societies and conservation area committees.

I've always been fascinated by Tottenham's heritage and its many social changes, so when Tottenham

Civic Society was set up in 2007, I agreed to be its Events Organiser.

Over the years we have had tours of the different parts of Tottenham, many focusing on the 'historic corridor' of the High Road, but also housing estates such as Tower Gardens, Ferry Lane and Broadwater Farm.

We have also toured churches, including Tottenham Baptist Church, St Bartholomew's and Brook Street Chapel, and new developments such as Hale Village, Brook House and Isobel Place.

We had tours looking at rebuilding after the 2011 riots and to consider the various Spurs planning proposals.

We developed some cross-borough walks: the first was 'Alexandra Palace to Bruce Castle' and the second the Moselle. The aim was to bring residents from the west of the borough (and elsewhere) to see the treasures of Tottenham. We had discovered that many of these people had not even been to Bruce Castle Museum let alone other places.

Joyce Rosser, Contributor

I'm Jane Morgan and I'm a funeral celebrant, working with families to create ceremonies that reflect the personality and individual beliefs of the person that has died. This helps the family and friends to say goodbye in a meaningful and memorable way.

I also facilitate death related projects such as Death Café, bereavement support and now Coffin Club.

Tottenham is an ideal place to run these projects—our diverse and culturally rich population makes for such open and frank discussion about grief, rituals around death, how we tackle funeral poverty, and so much more.

I've lived in Tottenham for over 20 years and my daughter was educated here.

I walk my dog in Lordship Rec and Downhills Park every day where I stop for a coffee or two putting the world to rights and catching up on what's new in Tottenham.

I love singing, reading, walking, theatre and food—all well served in Tottenham. I also like to support local businesses whether new or long established.

The sense of belonging is important for us all and I'm proud to be part of a community where there's a committed core of residents who are active politically and socially and who volunteer with projects which support and improve their neighbourhood; from keeping the parks tidy to welcoming refugees, to supporting vulnerable people, to running reading groups and film clubs.

Jane Morgan, Contributor

Haringey leader reflects on first year

By Simon Allin,
Local Democracy Reporter

Haringey’s leader says the council has made a “good start” on delivering the Labour Group’s ambitious manifesto pledges – including a bid to build 1,000 council-owned homes.

Cllr Joseph Ejiofor admitted it had been a challenging twelve months since he was elected as council leader last May, but said his administration had already fully delivered three manifesto pledges and made a start on 50 more.

Cllr Ejiofor’s leadership signalled a change of direction for the council after key figures from the previous Labour administration were ousted in the run-up to the 2018 local elections.

“The big thing is always going to be around housing. We are focusing on delivering social housing, as well as other forms of affordable housing.

“As a council, this is the thing that we felt was most important – 1,000 additional council homes, said Cllr Ejiofor.

“It is a challenging target, but it is something we believe we can deliver.”

The leader has also been focused on providing more support for financially vulnerable residents, tackling crime and ensuring more wealth stays in the local economy.

Cllr Ejiofor said one of the biggest achievements of the past year was



Credit Luchia Robinson

the extension of support for people who struggle to pay council tax – the council tax reduction scheme – to 100% for some of the poorest families in the borough.

He said: “It was an early decision – we’d decided, we are definitely going to do this, we have found the money to make this real.”

Serious youth violence – defined by the Metropolitan Police as “any offence of most serious violence or weapon-enabled crime where the victim is aged one to 19” – is a major problem in Haringey.

There were 346 victims of serious youth violence in the borough during the twelve months to January 2019 – meaning one in every 99 young people aged between ten and 19 was a victim.

The borough has adopted a “public health approach” to the problem – a long-term plan that aims to tackle the root causes of crime.

Cllr Ejiofor said his administration had taken immediate action to improve youth services and stop

of taking over and trying to change the council’s direction to turning a supertanker around – “even though you are moving the wheel, it is still going in the other direction”.

Cllr Ejiofor said the council was making progress on insourcing some of its contracts and other manifesto pledges – including the Fairness Commission, which was set up to tackle inequality and promote fairness in the borough.

He said: “It hasn’t always been easy this year.

“I’m looking forward to working with a cabinet that is much more united to set out and deliver the things our residents are really concerned with.

“It is about getting closer to our 1,000 homes, about making our community wealth-building agenda for businesses, for people who need new jobs, for communities who feel they have been left behind.

“It is also really important that the Fairness Commission works and our Young People At Risk Strategy has the support of stakeholders, police and young people.

“These are the things that matter for the people of Haringey, and we need to continue to be a responsive council.

“I need people to be able to come to us, and when they speak with and engage with the council, we will listen.

“We will do our best to take on board the things that matter to our residents and to deliver for them.”

Continued From Page 1

Liberal Democrats, said: “Cllr Ejiofor’s Cabinet is even more chronically divided than Theresa May’s.

“Over the last year he has lost a third of his cabinet including his Finance lead who accused him of making ‘financially risky and imprudent’ decisions. He sacked two Cabinet members because of ‘persistent and personal conflicts’ and now one of those Cabinet Members is his new Deputy. I can only imagine that the Labour infighting we have seen all year will become even more toxic.”

Cllr Ejiofor has taken on two new Cabinet members, for the second year of his administration.

One is West Green representative, Cllr Seema Chandwani, who now takes the lead for Neigh-

bourhoods – which has a focus on ensuring a cleaner public realm.

The other is White Hart Lane representative, Cllr Gideon Bull, who has become the Cabinet Member for Local Investment and Economic Growth – a role intended to build and retain wealth within the community.

Cllr Joseph Ejiofor said: “I’m pleased to welcome Seema Chandwani and Gideon Bull into the Cabinet, I’ve no doubt that they have the knowledge, passion and experience to drive forward our manifesto commitments and deliver for the residents of Haringey.

“I’d like to thank Cllr Elin Weston for the work and commitment that she invested in performing her Cabinet role for Children and

Education over the past 3 years. Over 98% of Haringey schools are currently rated Outstanding or Good by Ofsted.

“With the election of Cllr Zena Brabazon to the Deputy Leadership, and Zena’s experience in children and early care settings, I am convinced that Zena will be able to carry Elin’s work forward.

“I’d also like to thank Cllr Noah Tucker in his work on the Insourcing portfolio this past year, he has delivered a clear change in direction, with our first contracts set to come back ‘in house’ later this year.”

For more information on Haringey’s councillors:
Visit minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1

The Cabinet

- **Leader** – Cllr Joseph Ejiofor
- **Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Families** – Cllr Zena Brabazon
- **Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategic Regeneration** – Cllr Charles Adje
- **Cabinet Member for Corporate and Civic Services** – Cllr Kaushika Amin
- **Cabinet Member for Communities and Equalities** – Cllr Mark Blake
- **Cabinet Member for Local Investment and Economic Growth** – Cllr Gideon Bull
- **Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods** – Cllr Seema Chandwani
- **Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability** – Cllr Kirsten Hearn
- **Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal** – Cllr Emina Ibrahim
- **Cabinet Member for Adults and Health** – Cllr Sarah James

NEWS

Haringey Council seeks local views on Bruce Castle

Be a part of Bruce Castle's future



Bruce Castle Credit Stephen Furner

Tottenham residents will have the chance to share their views and ideas about Bruce Castle and Bruce Castle Park throughout June and July.

Haringey Council will be collecting stories about how people connect

with the sites, in an attempt to identify what residents most enjoy about the park and museum.

Locals will be able to share their views via online and paper surveys, face-to-face events, and focus groups, including one at Bruce

Castle Museum on the evening of Wednesday 26th June, which will incorporate a tour.

Other sessions will be held around the local area, and a larger public event is being organised for the end of July.

The council is encouraging imaginative ideas about the sites' future, and it will be contacting local schools, organisations and groups for their views.

Dating back to the time of Robert the Bruce, the building is of national significance, as well as being an important part of Tottenham's heritage.

It is hoped that uncovering how local people use the space, and also what makes them more inclined to visit, will best inform how to sustain the site for future generations.

A spokesperson from the council said: "Our priority is to ensure as many people as possible – whether local residents or people from much further afield – enjoy the unique beauty of the Grade I listed Bruce Castle, learning more about its fascinating history and the contribution it has made to life in Tottenham, Haringey, London and beyond over many centuries."

Updates about engagement activities will appear on the Bruce Castle Museum page of Haringey Council's website and will be promoted on the council's social media channels.

If you are already associated with Bruce Castle or Bruce Castle Park you may be contacted directly. Otherwise, if you would like to be added to a mailing list to receive updates about ways to get involved:

Email frankie.white@haringey.gov.uk

Haringey councillor expelled from Labour Party



Cllr Barbara Blake

A Haringey councillor has been expelled from the Labour Party after retweeting posts from a rival political group.

Cllr Barbara Blake (Seven Sisters ward), now stands as the only Independent councillor in the borough, after retweeting Change UK tweets, which included posts from Heidi Allen MP and MEP candidate Nora Mulready.

Change UK established itself in February when dissatisfied members from both Labour and the Conservatives, left their respective parties to form an independent group.

Cllr Blake's actions were found to break Labour Party rules, which prevent members from supporting other political organisations, or opposing candidates.

Cllr Blake's dismissal took place during the EU election campaign season.

Nick Rogers, Chair of Tottenham CLP and Celia Dignan, Chair, Hornsey and Wood Green CLP said: "Cllr Barbara Blake had repeatedly expressed her support on Twitter for Change UK, a party set up to undermine Labour.

"Cllr Blake has seriously let down Labour members across Haringey who freely give of their time as volunteers to campaign for Labour, in local, national, London and European elections, helping to elect representatives like Cllr Blake. Rather than joining the members in promoting the party and its policies in our local community, Cllr Blake betrayed those members. It is right that she has been removed from the party."

Cllr Barbara Blake was contacted for comment.

New mayor of Haringey appointed

Cllr Sheila Peacock has been appointed the Mayor of Haringey – taking over the role from Cllr Gina Adamou.

Mayor Peacock, a retired Tottenham headteacher, mum-of-five, grandmother of 10 and great-grandmother of 15, is a Labour councillor in Northumberland Park and has been Chair of the Tottenham and Wood Green Pensioners' Action Group since 1994. She is also Chair of the annual Holocaust Memorial Ceremony in Haringey.

Mayor Peacock said: "I am thrilled to be returning to the role of Mayor of Haringey – my fourth time in the role.

"I love this borough and it has been a pleasure to serve it as a councillor for the last 25 years.

"I want to say thank you to Gina, who did a great job as last year's Mayor. I can't wait to take over now, and represent this fantastic borough as Mayor again."

This year the Mayor will use her fundraising role to support disabled and vulnerable children (including the Step by Step nursery), the Lymphoma Cancer Association and the Friends of Pembury Nursery.

Cllr Dana Carlin, who represents Hornsey ward is this year's Deputy Mayor.



Mayor Peacock Credit Haringey Council

NEWS

News

Community football pitch opened
at Seven Sisters Primary School

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Air care

Primary school implements air quality improvement plan



The improved playground **Credit** Briony Pickford

By Briony Pickford

Holy Trinity C of E Primary School has moved its boiler's flue (exhaust pipe), from the side of the building, to a chimney far above the playground, in efforts to improve air quality.

This comes after the school was

awarded £10,000 funding to make improvements, having been identified as one of the 50 worst polluted schools in London.

School Business Manager, Elliott Bergin, said: "One of the main priorities in the school is the health of the children.

"We are a Christian school, so our

ethos is that the children will become custodians of their local area, nature and look after what they have."

So far, Holy Trinity has spent £4000 on the new boiler flue, £4000 on screens walls of Ivy, (which absorbs nitrogen dioxide particulates from the road beside the playground) and £2000 on a new playground project that will boast newly established trees, plants, soft resin flooring, soil-testing kits, a weather station and a miniature river with an Archimedes' screw.

"Our second playground borders Monument Way and the A10, so this area is quite badly polluted.

"The green screen of Ivy was put up in March, so hopefully by the end of the summer it will cover the fence and protect the area from these busy roads," said Elliot.

Holy Trinity was one of three Haringey schools (including Welbourne and Earlsmead primary schools) to be audited by global engineering consultancy firm, WSP.

WSP spent three months assessing indoor and outdoor air pollution sources, travel to school and local

walking routes across traffic crossings, to identify the priorities for each school's air improvement plan.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan, said: "I'm doing everything in my power to protect children in London from air pollution.

"Our air quality audits set out to reduce air pollution in and around the school premises."

Glenn Higgs, Associate Director at WSP, said: "We are delighted to have worked with the GLA, school communities and boroughs to develop recommendations which will make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of children at 50 primary schools, by helping to tackle their air quality issues."



Sweet nothings

Haringey council bans junk food adverts

By Briony Pickford

Unhealthy food advertisements will be banned on all council-owned advertising spaces in an attempt to lower obesity, which costs Haringey NHS more than £81 million each year.

The ban will be implemented in July, and will affect any food and drink products which are high in fat, salt or sugar, according to Public Health England's Nutrient Profiling Model.

Cllr Sarah James, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health, said: "Obesity leads to significantly worse health outcomes and puts immense pressure on local health services.

"I am proud that Haringey is one of the first London boroughs to fight back by taking a firm stance against the marketing of unhealthy foods."

Obesity affects around one in every four adults, and around one in every five children aged 10-11.

In Haringey more than a third of Year 6 children are considered obese or overweight, with that ratio rising to almost two in three for adults.

Cllr Elin Weston, former Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families, said: "Children in Haringey should enjoy a happy and healthy childhood and tackling unhealthy weight is an essential part of this.

"I am pleased that Haringey is taking the lead in standing against advertising harmful and unhealthy foods which target our children."

This stand follows London Mayor, Sadiq Khan's ban of junk food advertising on all public transport across London, which came into effect in February. Haringey has already disallowed promotions for products that pose health risks.

Both NHS England and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, support Haringey's stance, whilst 82% of respondents in a TfL London-wide consultation also agree with it.

"Tackling unhealthy weight is an essential part of a happy and healthy childhood"

Low emission buses launched

A new Low Emission Bus Zone (LEBZ) from Edmonton to Seven Sisters has been introduced as part of London Mayor, Sadiq Khan's aim to tackle toxic air in the capital.

Stephen McDonnell, Haringey Council's Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, said: "Haringey has declared a climate emergency and we are due to consult with residents on our draft Air Quality Action Plan."

With the completion of three new zones, in Haringey, Lewisham and Stratford, Transport for London (TfL) will reduce toxic air pollution for more than 40 schools, nurseries and academies along the routes and surrounding roads.

The LEBZs comprise of zero emission or hybrid double decker buses, as well as retrofitted older buses that reduce nitrogen dioxide emissions by up to 90%.

In addition, all new single deck buses will be zero emission from 2020. This will mean that next year, the entire city will become a Low Emission Bus Zone.

Sadiq Khan, said: "London is facing an air quality emergency, with pollution from vehicles, including buses, responsible for over half the harmful emissions we breathe.

"Experts estimate that without action it would take 193 years to bring London's air quality to within legal levels- but with the action we're taking we can hope to achieve this goal in just six years."



London Mayor, Sadiq Khan

COMMUNITY

Footballing fun

New community pitch opened in memory of Ugo Ehiogu



Having a kick about with Kyle Walker-Peters Credit Tottenham Hotspur Foundation

An all-weather, small-sided football pitch has been created at Seven Sisters Primary School, in memory of Tottenham Hotspur's former U23's coach, Ugo Ehiogu, who passed away, after suffering a cardiac arrest, in April 2017.

The pitch will provide opportunities for young people in Haringey to play football in a safe space; with Seven Sisters Primary School having their P.E lessons there, and Tottenham Hotspur Foundation using the new ground to deliver Premier League Kicks sessions for local children.

The Ugo Ehiogu Mini Pitch was officially opened by Ugo's wife, Gemma Ehiogu with the support of Kyle Walker-Peters, who worked under Ugo as an U23 player, Head Teacher at Seven Sisters Primary School, Emma Murray, and representatives from the Premier League, Football Association, Football Foundation, Tottenham Hotspur Academy and

Tottenham Hotspur Foundation.

In addition to opening the pitch, Gemma also unveiled a mural of Ugo, which was created by a local artist, Grant Kennedy.

Gemma Ehiogu said: "Ugo was always passionate about ensuring every child had access to play sport in a safe space. This new facility will help youngsters in Haringey have more opportunities to play football, meet new friends, help improve their physical and mental health, and improve levels of anti-social behaviour in the area."

"It's a fitting way to remember him, and I hope the facility brings huge joy to children living in this area."

Following the opening ceremony, staff from the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation, with the help of Kyle, delivered a Premier League Kicks session for pupils at Seven Sisters Primary School.

Emma Murray said: "Here at Seven Sisters Primary School we are ded-

icated to providing our students with access to as much physical education as possible.

"This new facility is going to allow our children to play sport every day, and we would like to thank all funding partners for their generosity and support. We are delighted to be working with Tottenham Hotspur to open the facility up to other youngsters in the local community who will benefit from using it."

The opening of the Ugo Ehiogu Mini Pitch, was supported by Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, and was made possible as a result of investment from the Football Foundation, as well as Side-On, a charity set up in Ugo's memory, and donations from parents and teachers from Seven Sisters Primary School.

Kyle Walker-Peters said: "It's been a real privilege being at the opening of the mini pitch. I wish I had something like this when I was growing up - it's a fantastic facility for

children in Haringey.

"Ugo had a massive impact on my life and my playing career, and without

him I wouldn't have improved as a player. I owe a lot to him, so it's been brilliant being here to remember him."

"It's a fitting way to remember him, and I hope the facility brings huge joy to children living in the area"



Seven Sisters Primary School pupils Credit Tottenham Hotspur Foundation

Cervical screening campaign launched in Haringey



Mekella Green and her daughter Credit Alice Whitby



Laurence House Surgery Credit TCP Local Correspondent

“Sometimes women want to talk to people from within their communities with regards to cervical screening and be able to ask questions without fear of being judged”

Public Health teams in Haringey, Enfield, Barnet, Camden and Islington have joined forces to launch a campaign encouraging women to attend cervical screenings.

The campaign follows on from the national, NHS Cervical Screening Programme, which was launched by Public Health England in March. Mekella Green, has been appointed as Haringey’s Health Ambassador. She will run a programme of activities to raise awareness, until Friday, 28th June, which includes a weekly coffee morning on Mondays at the Turkish Cypriot Community Association on Green Lanes, Harringay.

Women with a cervix, over the age of 25 are regularly invited to attend cervical screening appointments (smear tests) at their GP practice. This is a simple procedure that can help prevent cervical cancer and increase diagnosis at an early stage, when it can be more easily treated.

The issue of highlighting the preventative benefits of the smear test is dear to Mekella, as her daughter was recently diagnosed with Stage One cervical cancer, after Mekella encouraged her to go for screening.

Although Mekella’s daughter’s prognosis is good, this is not always the case, as two women die every day in the UK from cervical cancer. However, it is estimated that smear tests save approximately 2,000 lives a year.

The national target for cervical screening coverage is 80%, but coverage is at its lowest amongst those aged 25–35.

Figures published by NHS Digital show that, at 31 March 2018, the percentage of eligible women (aged 25 to 64) screened adequately within the recommended time period was 71.4%; but in Haringey, uptake was lower still at only 66%.

Dr Nauseen Shammed, a North London GP who has supported the campaign since its development, said: “As a GP the low uptake of cervical screening is very concerning, particularly because it’s such an effective way of preventing cervical cancer from developing.

“This peer-to-peer delivery approach across this campaign is fantastic. It’s so important to be able to share information amongst family and friends.

“Sometimes women want to talk to people from within their communities with regards to cervical screening

and be able to ask questions without fear of being judged. Getting them talking about it over coffee or whatever it may be, can really help with raising awareness and help women feel at ease about undertaking this vital medical screening.

“I know there are lots of campaigns going on around the country to reduce barriers to access to this type of screening for women – I’m very

proud that here in North London we are a cog in that wheel.

“What I would say to women who are worried about attending is, we want to make it easy for you; you can ask for a female nurse or doctor, you can bring a chaperone if it makes you more comfortable. We will tell you anything you need to know – there’s no such thing as a stupid question! We’re here to help.”

Information

- Extended screening hours are available at Laurence House Surgery, 107 Philip Lane, N15 4JR and Somerset Gardens Family Centre, 4 Creighton Road, N17 8NW, from 6.30pm–8.30pm weekdays and 8.00am–8.00pm weekends/ bank holidays. To book an appointment, contact your GP practice or call 0330 053 9499
- All people with a cervix between the ages of 25 and 64 are eligible for regular cervical screening; they are invited for screening every 3 years from age 25-49, and every 5 years from 50-64
- There are many reasons women don’t attend their cervical screening- fear of discomfort or pain, embarrassment or a lack of knowledge about the procedure. However, the test should take under 5 minutes, and recent PHE research shows that once women have been screened, the vast majority (87%) are ‘glad they went’ and 84% say that they were ‘put at ease by the nurse or doctor doing the test’
- The campaign is supported by the UK’s only Cervical Cancer charity, Jo’s Trust, who delivered training for the Health Ambassadors

To find out more about cervical screening you can visit the NHS Choices website: nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-screening/

Crossword Solutions No.10

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PHOTOGRAPHY



Markfield Park

Are you a keen photographer? Do you walk around Tottenham inspired to share what you see when you see it? If so, please get in touch, and you may be featured on our photography page.

Email tcp@socialspider.com



By Ivan Gonzalez

COMMUNITY

Art at the heart of the community

Local artists to present work at annual open studio event

By Luchia Robinson



The Loudest Silence by Nina Franco

The annual Euroart Open Studios will take place from 7-9th June this year, with three work units at the Gaunson House venue, displaying a host of art from across a range of mediums.

Lucy Edkins is one of the many artists helping to organise and self-fund the free event, which in addition, is being sponsored by Tottenham's Redemption Craft Brewery. Lucy is currently using upcycled hardboard and ply to create figures, playful signage and representa-

tions of local wildlife, which will be dotted around the building throughout the weekend.

Lucy said: "I'm looking forward to the many and varied crowds who will descend on the studios in the summer opening."

"Many visitors look forward to their annual peek at the vast array of creative styles and personalities tucked away in this back street warehouse district of Tottenham, and chatting to the artists about their creative process."



Hand and Arm Pointing by Lucy Edkins

"Many visitors look forward to their annual peek at the vast array of creative styles and personalities tucked away in this back street warehouse district of Tottenham"

"[The open studios provides an] inspiring glimpse of possibilities for Tottenham's aspiring creatives as well as an opportunity [for the public] to buy directly from local artists, or to simply walk around and appreciate the work and the different spaces people create in."

Artist, Nina Franco will also be featuring work in the open day weekender. Nina works with mixed media photography and installation to focus on the resignification of marginalised people.

Nina said: "I have been exploring political issues in my work as a way to reflect on my own experience and upbringing as an Afro-Latina; it then quickly progresses to exploring the overall idea of colonisation."

"It will be my first year participating in the open studios, so I'm super excited to meet locals and visitors and to have real conversations."

"Haringey is going through gentrification and the most important thing in this situation is to be together and organised in our community. "Events like the Open Studios, which offers art, music, and food, can also be a place to exchange ideas and solidarity, or to just meet new people and brighten your day."

For more details, head to the listings section on page 15



Artist, Nina Franco Credit Claudia Niarni



Coal House by Lucy Edkins

COMMUNITY

Literature
Karin Lock reviews
Natives by Akala

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Dealing with death

Coffin Club comes to Tottenham



Attendees consider their options **Credit** Coffin Club Hastings

By Coffin Club

Residents of Tottenham will now have a chance to try *Coffin Club*—a new venture that launches with a taster session

on Tuesday 4th June, at The Engine Room, Tottenham Hale.

Coffin Club invites members of the community to come and hear about how funeral directors work, the work of death doulas, and there

is also the opportunity to plan your own funeral— all with our signature cakes and biscuits!

Coffin Club North London is an initiative of five local people: Funeral Photographer, Tracey Anderson; Death



Credit Coffin Club Hastings

Doula, Sandra Greenyer; Artist, Susan Beattie, and Funeral Celebrants, Jane Morgan and Ruth Valentine.

It is the first *Coffin Club* to launch in London, with the taster event giving attendees a glimpse of the club's full programme, which will start in September.

Coffin Clubs hit wider public awareness when a TV documentary—*A Dead Good Adventure*, presented by actor Miriam Margolyes, aired on BBC 2 in April.

In it, Miriam, like any *Coffin Club* participant, decorates her own flat-pack coffin, whilst discussing anything and everything to do with the

end of life: advance decisions on medical care, burial, cremation, DIY funerals and more.

Jane Morgan said: "We know from running Death Café Tottenham that there is a real wish to know more about death and dying.

"We see *Coffin Club* as an opportunity to learn more, and also think more about your own death, in a relaxed atmosphere where there's no pressure to say more than you're comfortable with.

"We hope our launch will give people a taster of the full *Coffin Club*, as well as some new ways of approaching the whole issue of death."

A river runs through it

Double celebration for the River Moselle

By Joyce Rosser – Haringey Friends of Parks Forum

This summer, Haringey Friends of Parks Forum is celebrating a major improvement in the River Moselle's water quality, as well as the 400th anniversary of the famous 1619 Tottenham Map which clearly shows the river running across the ancient parish.

An increasing number of people are aware of 'Haringey's river' which runs from Highgate through Hornsey, Wood Green and Tottenham to the River Lea.

In the old days the Moselle was responsible for such sayings as "When it rains in Muswell Hill, it floods in Tottenham" and "Highgate's rain is Tottenham's pain".

The 1619 map (which Bruce Castle Museum is planning an exhibition about later this year) mentions places such as Chapmans Green,

Broade Waters (where Lordship Rec and Broadwater Farm Estate are now), the Parsonage Grounds and Garbell Ditch—an artificial channel constructed in the 15th Century as part of a flood control scheme.

There are very few places where the river can be seen, as over the centuries large sections were culverted (put in a pipe) to stop flooding, and to permit housing development. However, there are many signs along the route that reveal the river's presence.

As part of the 2012 major redevelopment of Lordship Recreation Ground, the Moselle was raised to the surface and landscaped with bridges and wild flowers; so the river is visible in Lordship Recreation Ground, as well as in Tottenham Cemetery.

However, in 2014 Thames Water revealed hundreds of misconnections along the routes of the rivers that run

into the River Lea. This is where bad plumbing has allowed dirty water from sinks, baths, showers, appliances and even toilets to go into the surface water sewer rather than the foul water sewer.

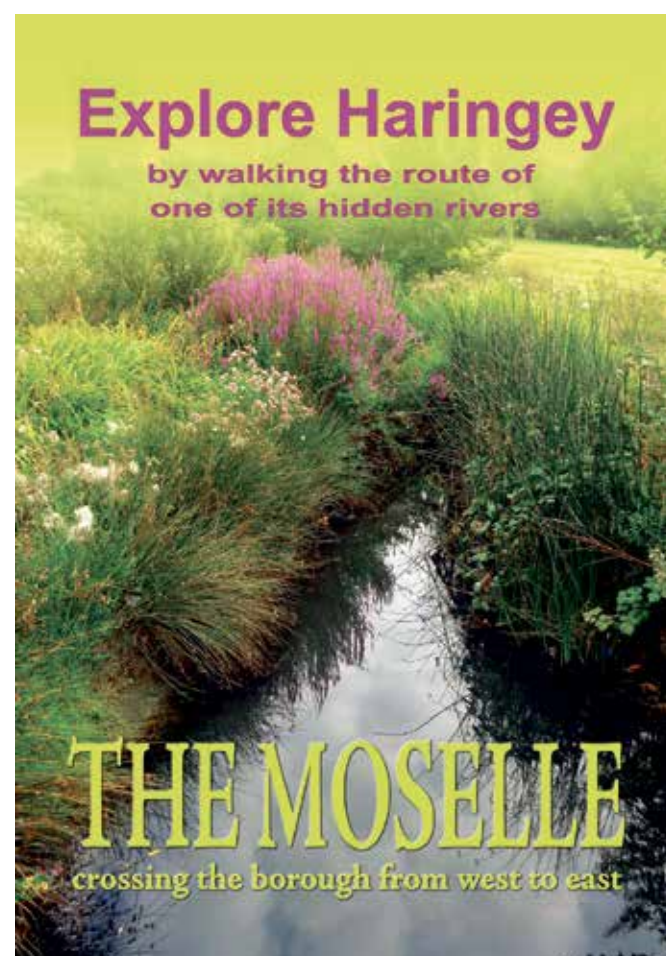
Under the banner of 'Love the Lea', Haringey Council along with Thames Water and the Environment Agency have been working to get these misconnections corrected.

One of these was from some toilets at a Wood Green primary school, which was finally fixed during this February half term, after a long delay.

Friends of Parks Groups in Lordship Recreation Ground, Tottenham Cemetery and Markfield Park, who have been monitoring the Moselle's water quality, have already noticed an improvement.

You can view the 1619 map of Tottenham at Bruce Castle Park Museum. To arrange a visit:

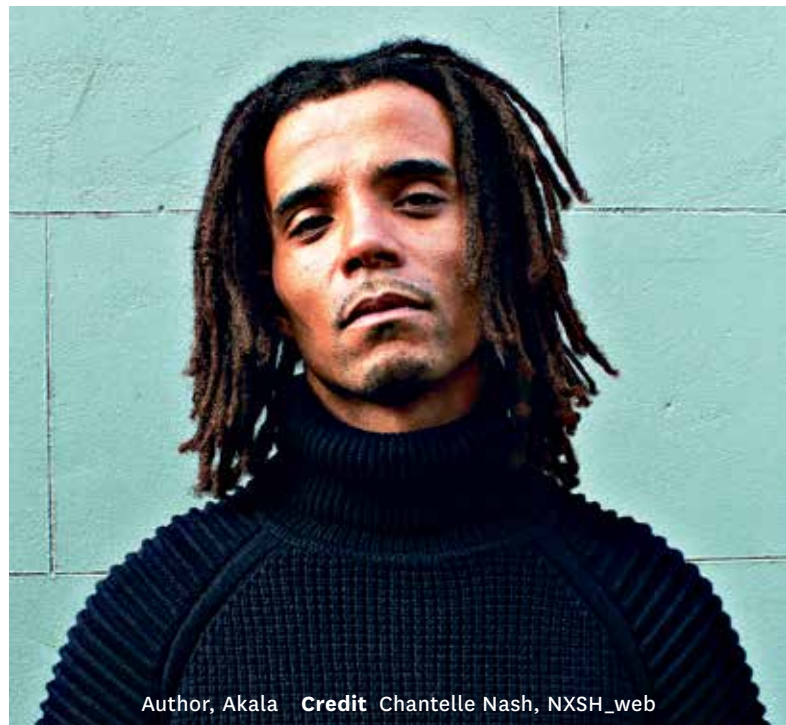
Call 0208 808 8772



Take a walk along the river **Credit** Joyce Rosser

Race and representation

Karin Lock reviews, *Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire* by Akala



Author, Akala Credit Chantelle Nash, NXSH_web

LITERATURE

Anyone following Akala's illustrious career as a poet, rapper, MOBO award winner, journalist, and Artistic Director of The Hip-Hop Shakespeare Company— knows this prodigious speaker and wordsmith goes for the jugular.

A prolific reader, he has condensed decades of research and lived experience into an uncompromising critique of imperial Britain, past and present.

The autobiographical *Natives* commences in Akala's birth decade—the individualistic, Thatcherite eighties. For many Black citizens, it was a period of brutality. Police raids, stop-and-search, racist graffiti, arson attacks, verbal assaults and physical beatings were common.

Black communities from Toxteth to Tottenham erupted in righteous unrest.

Fast forward to today, and despite Macpherson and 'black faces in high places', Akala sees institutional racism and state violence as a given.

The book opens with the proverbial banana skin metaphor for the unspoken refusal to address British racial prejudice.

Elitist narratives portray racism as a 'white working class' issue (see

Brexit). However, it was the ruling establishment that spearheaded Britain's white supremacist piracy project, five centuries earlier.

That's 500 years of indoctrination; supported by Immigration Acts, abolition lies, colourism and scientific racism.

Natives traces the development of race codification, and its relationship to class, from Roman times through Enlightenment to Nazi Germany.

The author describes Britain's divide-and-rule ethos with 'whiteness' as a tool of social control. But *Natives* is no dry academic tome. Witty and thought-provoking, it is a highly readable history lesson from a master storyteller.

Anecdotes, aphorisms and colloquialisms pepper the narrative, whilst facts, stats and quotes support the reasoning.

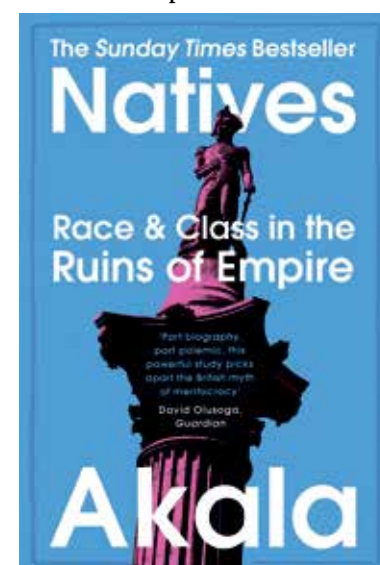
Racialised as 'black', Akala's mixed heritage provides a fulcrum for the historical analysis of the economic, political and social forces underpinning his family dynamic.

His Camden upbringing, with bigoted, bullying teachers and regular police harassment, shaped his worldview, but it was family visits to Scotland and Jamaica that changed him.

He began to see 'race' as fluid, dependent on where you reside.

Natives delves deep, exposing the interplay of racism and black representation.

The fuelling of white fear, through racist-perpetuating assumptions and stereotypes, is a rarely broached subject; but Akala, and his contemporaries, Afua Hirsch and Reni Eddo-Lodge, are irradiating an obliterated history of black resistance and revolution—forcing a much-needed discussion about structural oppressions that still persist in this nation.



POETRY CORNER

To Darkness And To Me

by Terry Egan

Cluster of headstones,
the graveyard resounds with caws,
the chug-chug of trains,
and fluttering of branches...
The dead don't hear them, of course;
I hear it for them,
mumbling at unnumbered names
so they rest assured...

And here it is, look!
a poem instead of me -
a little tilted
in the cemetery of rhyme:
listen out for me, won't you,
idle on your bench,
to trains rattling, birds calling,
nodding at my name...

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Praying helps me accept myself

Shafi Hassan describes how being different keeps him on the right path

I feel I am different in three ways. First, I am Muslim. I pray and somebody from a different religion can drink and have pork.

Secondly, my parents are from Somalia. I have a different type of food and music that Somali people like.

Thirdly, I was born a special needs child. I have difficulty understanding. Sometimes I get stressed a lot. I find it hard to remember what I have to do and what other people ask me for in life.

Two things have affected me.

One was when my brother was once attacked after school because of his religion. The other was when I was 17 and started hanging out in the park. Other young people would call me names.

These experiences have made me feel scared. I have this really bad feeling. I worry about what could happen to me. Somebody may attack me because of how people in my area think of me. This makes me depressed and I get mad.

My mind hurts so much, that often I just stay home on the sofa playing PS4. Sometimes I try to do stuff to get happy. I like to joke with people and make them laugh. Sometimes I even

make jokes with strangers because I want to be the centre of attention.

I have learnt that this is dangerous because everyone is not the same out there, and one day somebody may take things the wrong way and get violent.

I face issues with social interaction. I used to be very egotistical. I only cared about myself and no one else. The only person I could rely on was myself. I used to have very bad anger issues when people used to call me names.

I used to hit people but now I take time to calm down because I realise that doing this is wrong. It is not going to solve anything. Instead I ask them why they called me names and try and sort out the issue. I get to my room and think of how I can stay calm instead of going 'mortal combat' style.

The benefits of being Muslim are that I pray. It helps me out with my stress and grievances. I worship Allah and this puts me on the right path of life. I don't smoke or take drugs and I'm not rude to my parents. I try to be respectful to everyone.

The benefits of being Somali is that we have different types of food-

Somali pancake for breakfast, goat meat and rice for lunch, and sweet snacks like samosas, dough balls and halwa.

The benefits of having special needs are that I feel I can be kinder than other people. I share things and I am generous. I have a big heart. When a friend has a problem, I always back them up.

Whether I am different or not, people should treat me with the respect every human equally needs and deserves. They should respect how I look, how I speak and my actions, if they are appropriate.

The advice I would give to other young people like me is to get on the right path. Don't be irresponsible by speaking to random strangers and saying weird stuff, because they may not be nice like you.

Ignore bad comments that people might say or post on social media, like 'you're ugly' or 'you're dumb'.

There is an old saying: sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.

Violence is never the way to solve issues with people. It just makes things worse.

“Whether I am different or not, people should treat me with the respect every human equally needs and deserves. They should respect how I look, how I speak, and my actions, if they are appropriate”

Our partnership with Exposure is funded by Tottenham Grammar School Foundation

Exposure's loneliness project is a great success

Co-op Foundation funding helps deliver fantastic youth loneliness creative outputs

Young people at Exposure have been having their say about the best ways to tackle youth loneliness in their community.

Over 50 youngsters aged 16-24 have been working with Exposure to come up with new ways to help their peers feel less lonely.

This has resulted in dozens of creative outputs for the Exposure website addressing: friendship, success, difference, the benefits of being alone and triggers.

This has been supported with a grant from the Building Connections Fund, youth strand – a partnership between the Co-op Foundation and the government.

The work will now lead to innovative ways of engaging young people, ensuring even more can participate in Exposure's work, addressing: loneliness, learning difficulties, mental health and associated issues.

A new 'Celebrating Difference' project focusing on one of the key

reasons young Londoners feel lonely, will also be produced.

The project will give young people the opportunity to share valued and enjoyable aspects of their cultures and identities, with each other and the wider community.

Fran O'Connell, Exposure's Project Manager/Creative Trainer, said: "We learned that young people have a lot to say on youth loneliness and [they] are incredibly open about sharing their testimonies, as a form of narrative therapy, [...] in the knowledge they will be reaching out to, and helping other young people."

Exposure was one of 144 projects supported with grants through the Building Connections Fund, youth strand in January.

The youth strand is part of a wider £11.5m partnership between the Co-op Foundation, the government and the National Lottery Community Fund.

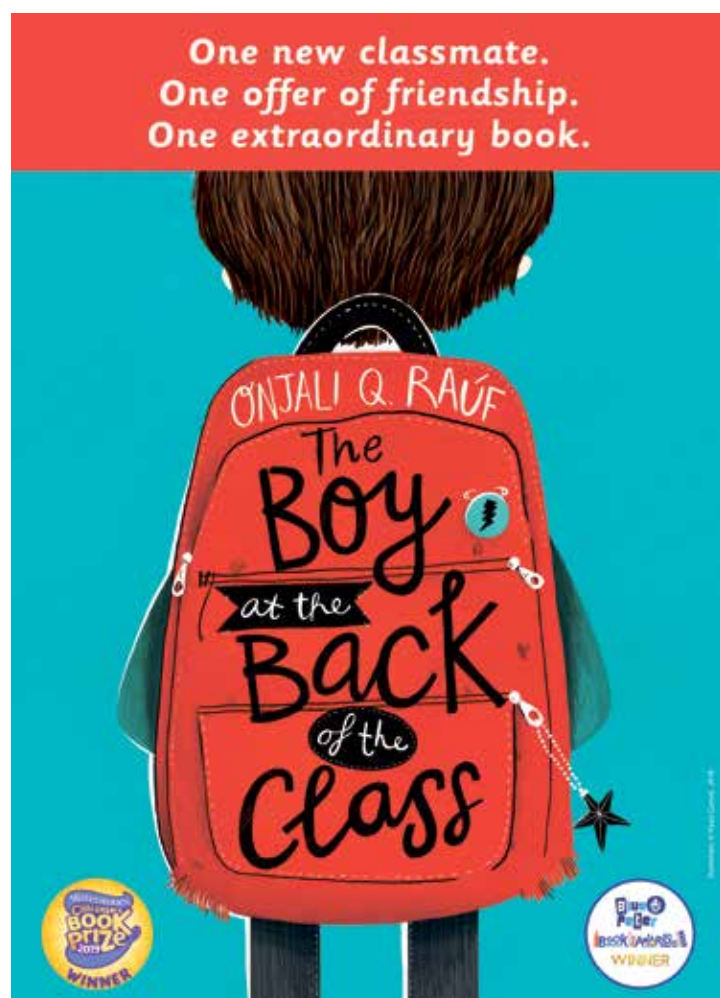
Ways young people can contribute to the 'Celebrating Difference' project may include:

- Highlighting issues they have to overcome because of their difference, and how others can be good allies
- Sharing a cultural recipe, piece of music or art, film, traditional dance, hairstyle, make up, jewellery or costume
- Describing a cultural or religious festival, or historic event or place and its significance
- Recounting traditional sayings, poetry, parables or short stories, and their meaning
- Profiling a famous historical figure and their contributions to the world
- Interviewing a prominent member of their community
- Promoting a valued local community service
- Talking to a family member about their journey, how and why they came to London

For more details: Visit exposure.org.uk Call 020 8883 0260

Seeking refuge

It is Refugee Week from 17- 23 June, and there are seven ‘simple acts’ to raise awareness of the refugee experience. One of them is to ‘share a story’ in order to learn more about the point of view of refugees themselves. Helen Swinyard shares, The Boy at the Back of the Class



T*he Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Raúf (and illustrated by Pippa Curnick) only came out in July 2018 but is already collecting accolades and prizes. It's won the Blue Peter Book Awards 2019 (Best Story category), the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2019 and has been shortlisted for both the Branford Boase Award 2019 and the Jhalak Prize 2019.

The Boy at the Back of the Class is told from the perspective of a child narrator– who's name and gender is revealed at the end of the story.

The narrator guides the reader along, as a new boy arrives in their class at school.

As the story unravels, the narrator makes friends with the new boy, Ahmet, and we (and they) find out more and more about Ahmet's life and story.

The Boy at the Back of the Class is drawn from Raúl's experiences of working with the refugee community in Calais, and Ahmet's story came to her whilst she was stuck in hospital recuperating from an operation.

Although the book is marketed at an 8-12 year old audience (as the narrator is 9 years old), the story is pitched per-

fectly for a wider readership, touching compassionately on the horrors Ahmet has faced before seeking refuge in the UK.

The Boy at the Back of the Class includes details of our contemporary UK attitudes to refugees, told through adult conversations the children hear on the bus or at the school gate: some are welcoming and some prejudicial.

The second half of the story changes from a school/ friendship drama, to more of an adventure, as the children try to help Ahmet reunite with his family.

This is not a one-dimensional story for learning about refugees and their experiences. The authentic voice of the narrator has warmth and humour, but also a childish innocence about certain situations– not yet having understanding of the world.

The narrator has also known hardships— their mum working two jobs since their father died. They are fantastic at asking questions and including us in the story through them. Their family dynamic is wonderful and all the characters—even minor ones, seem well-rounded

and interesting.

Readers of any age can relate to the details embedded within this story.

Some other fantastic books featuring the stories of refugees:

Red Leaves by local author
Sita Brahmachari (teenagers)

Do you speak chocolate?
by Cas Lester (8 - 12 years)

Child I by local author Steve Tasane
(featured in the May edition of TCP:
8-12 years)

No Place to Call Home
by JJ Bola (teenagers)

Illegal by Andrew Donkin and Eoin Colfer (graphic novel)

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr (creator of *Mog & The Tiger Who Came to Tea*: 8 years– teen)

You can read stories from refugees who have sought safety in the UK through the generations, as well as the other six simple acts on the Refugee Week website:

Visit refugeeweek.org.uk

CROSSWORD

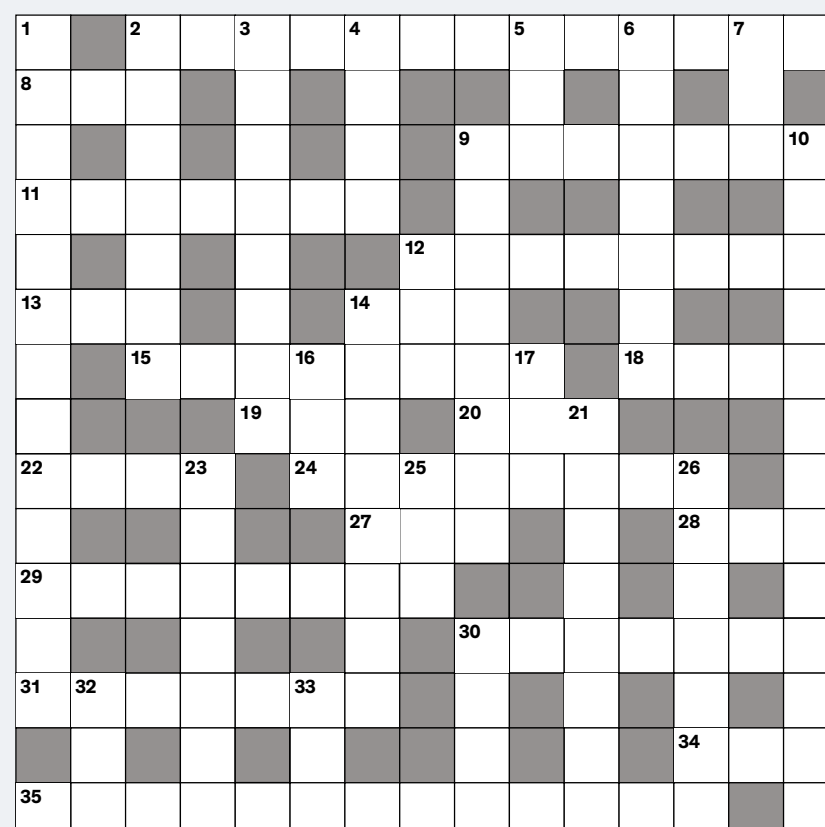
Across Clues

- 2 Inclined to steal (5,8)
- 8 Be in debt to (3)
- 9 Appeared small by comparison (7)
- 11 A fortified area in or near a city (7)
- 12 Pleasant-smelling (8)
- 13 And not; neither (3)
- 14 Shade of colour (3)
- 15 The gap between two points on the ground (8)
- 18 Heathland (4)
- 19 Top part of an oven (3)
- 20 A small amount (3)
- 22 To raise up; to foster (4)
- 24 Component of cigarettes (8)
- 27 A rocky height (3)
- 28 To ventilate (3)
- 29 Having a bad reputation (8)
- 30 Floor covering for wiping shoes on (7)
- 31 Relating to current affairs (7)
- 34 To manage a business (3)
- 35 Said with ironic, insincere intention (6, 2, 5)

by Ajayess

Down Clues


- 1 Someone who doesn't adhere to prevailing practices or ideas (13)
- 2 One-piece garment worn by dancers (7)
- 3 Common aquatic pet (8)
- 4 Charge for use of a bridge or road (4)
- 5 The present (3)
- 6 Part of the hearing organ (7)
- 7 Female sheep (3)
- 9 Supervisor of actors (8)
- 10 Becoming worse (13)
- 12 Enjoyment (3)
- 14 Routine; done constantly (8)
- 16 100mph (3)
- 17 Consume (3)
- 21 Conversation (8)
- 23 Travelling aimlessly over a terrain (7)
- 25 Type of lettuce (3)
- 26 To designate (e.g. funds) for a particular purpose (7)
- 30 A flat thin circular object (4)
- 32 Famous beef stock brand (3)
- 33 To mature (3)




Upcoming

Ongoing

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