News

New fly-tipping strategy to be introduced to target litterers

— Page 4

News

Community unites against racism after terror attack in New Zealand

Page 6

Environment

Sadiq Khan funds floating reed bed project on the Lee navigation

– Page 7

Exposure

The diversity effect: Where are minorities in modern fiction? Ruby Snell reports

Page 11

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Local news that matters to you

Who foots the bill?

Council and football club unable to agree over cleaning costs



By Luchia Robinson

ith Tottenham Hotspur FC now finally installed in their new stadium, the issue of post-match cleaning has come to the fore. When TCP asked Haringey leader, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor whether Haringey Council and Tottenham Hotspur have come to an agreement about the street cleaning, Cllr Ejiofor said that there had been "complicated discussions" about the situation. "There is currently no agreement about who foots the bill for cleaning up post-match.

"We are looking at what the cost to Haringey Council tax payers would be, and we are asking Spurs to pay an appropriate amount to the council to help clean up post-match," said Cllr Ejiofor.

"The reality is that even in the smaller stadium, it cost us thousands of pounds to clean the council estates post-match. That money was eventually being charged to Haringey's social housing tenants. We don't believe that that is fair. We believe a fairer situation would be that a club of the wealth of Spurs makes a fair contribution to cleaning up the

Continued on Page-3

COMMUNITY

STEADFAST IN DIFFICULTIES

APRIL 2019 – Nº. 21

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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The Selby Centre series, go to pages 8-9 to see more

By Nima Shahmalekpur

Hello and welcome to issue 21. Tottenham Hotspur has returned to the area, now the new stadium is complete. *TCP* looks at how street cleaning post-match days will be addressed now Spurs is back, and also how the club has set about ensuring the renaming of White Hart Lane train station.

The TEDxTottenham team explores the connection between communities and their environments, hosting speakers who will discuss the interdependent relationship (p.12). This topic of discussion proves prevalent, particularly as Stamford Hill primary school faces a possible merger with nearby school, Tiverton, if it avoids academisation and stays within the council's authority (p.4).

Photographer Nima Shahmalekpur showcases the Selby Centre, photographingsome of the work spaces and team members that help make the multifunctioning community centre, a place of such vibrancy (p. 8–9).

On page 13, you can find out about how some local women celebrated one another on International Women's Day, and how clean-up group, Stonebridge Lock Coalition works towards keeping the Lee waterways green (p. 7).

You can read past editions of *TCP* online at *tottenhamcommunitypress*. *co.uk*. There you'll find details on how, with a regular donation, you can become a *TCP* member, and support the production of local, community journalism. Further details of this can also be found on the back page.

If you would like your photos, poems, articles and listings to be considered for *TCP*, do send them to *tcp*@socialspider.com.

There is always a lot happening

in Tottenham, and I want to hear about it from you!

Luchia Robinson, Editor

I am the co founder and director of Craving Coffee, as well as the founder of Women in Tottenham. I have a three year old son, I am a musician on hiatus and cycling is my preferred mode of transport.

I moved from Australia to Tottenham with my husband nine years ago, following my sister who has been here for nearly 14 years. It is now the place we have felt most settled, and where we have lived the longest since we've been married, having laid roots here.

To me, community is about respecting the people and the environment around you. It's about having relationships with your neighbours and ensuring your actions provide value and a positive impact.

Rachel Ho, Contibutor

I am part of the Stonebridge Lock Coalition- a volunteer, community-led group of residents, who actively improve our local rivers andwildspace habitats for wildlife, and our community's outdoor amenity.

We believe that our community can come together to tackle problems such as plastic pollution and plumbing misconnections that impact our rivers and the amazing wildlife that lives on Tottenham Marshes.

We facilitate people engaging with, and accessing nature and also understandinghow they can mitigate their own impact. We have fun.

Frances Dismore, Contibutor

3

Continued from Page-1

community in which it is based."

A spokesperson for Tottenham Hotspur stated that the club's new business rate payment, which will be in excess of £3million per year, based on the new stadium floor space for 62,000 spectators, will more than cover the costs as business rate payments have always covered litter collection and street cleansing on match days.

The club representative said: "Previously with the old stadium we paid rates of circa £850k for 36,000 spectators. Our rates are increasing by more than 250% and the visitor numbers by only 67%. The financial contribution the club is making to the council's budget is therefore a significant, increased amount."

"Additionally the club owns multiple business and domestic properties locally for which we also pay business and domestic ratesmany of these on roads we are currently cleaning ourselves and will be continuing to do so."

With regards to the cleaning payment arrangements Tottenham Hotspur had with Brent Council, the Spurs representative said: "The club [was] in effect hiring Wembley Stadium whilst our own stadium [was] being completed, we contributed there because we did not pay business rates to Brent Council, nor [did we] undertake the enhanced cleaning measures there."

Cllr Ejiofor has voiced his concerns about the mess likely to occur when 62,000 supporters visit Tottenham for matches at the new stadium.

"The council believes in the principle that the polluter should pay to mitigate the effects that their business has on the neighbourhood and the environment around them," said Cllr Ejiofor.

Tottenham Hotspur say they have offered to support Haringey Council through the enhancement of the club's match day cleaning regime. This, they say will include street cleaning an area wider than the club's own footprint; purchasing their own road sweeper; providing funding for the provision of 30 extra bins; post-match litter picking at four of Tottenham's train stations, and shuttle bus and coach pick-up/ drop off points; and running the 'Spurs Respects' campaign to encourage the responsible disposal of litter and recycling.

"We have funded many improvements and services in our locality. We feel that our business rates, along with additional business rates and domestic rates from our properties on surrounding roads, (and) the additional cleaning and waste measures we are implementing and funding, more than covers the requirements for a match day.

"We are fiercely proud of Tottenham and look forward to working closely with Haringey Council to achieve what we all want- a clean, vibrant environment for all."

"We are fiercely proud of Tottenham and look forward to working closely with Haringey Council"

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

GP Practices in north and east London will soon be taking part in <u>research</u> called the SUMMIT Study

The **SUMMIT Study** is being run by University College London (UCL) and University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH).

Who will be invited?

People aged between 50-77 who are registered with participating GP practices in <u>north and east</u> London only.

What is involved?

If you are eligible, your GP will send you an invitation letter in the post, with a phone number to call.

Depending on your responses to some questions over the phone, you may be invited to attend a Lung Health Check or a SUMMIT Study appointment.

At the Lung Health Check, you may be offered a scan of your lungs (called a CT scan), be asked to

give a blood sample and fill out a questionnaire.

At the SUMMIT Study appointment, you may be asked to give a blood sample and fill out a questionnaire.

The study is entirely voluntary and you do not have to take part.

UCLH researchers are organising the appointments for the study

For this to happen, participating GP practices will securely **share the names and addresses of potentially eligible individuals** with UCLH researchers.

The study team will invite people and coordinate study appointments. They will keep the details of everyone they invite for up to 10 years, to collect important health-related information and help develop future health services. Strict security measures will ensure your information is kept safe and confidential.

What do I do now?

Invitations will be sent out over the next year. If you receive one and you would like to take part, contact the phone number included with the letter.

If you do not want to receive an invitation and you do not want UCLH researchers to have your information, please phone <u>0300 303 4109</u> or email <u>uclh.summitstudy@nhs.net</u>. Opting out will not stop you being invited for

other NHS appointments.

Further details are available at www.summitstudy.co.uk



Catching fly-tippers

New fly-tipping strategy to be introduced



Rubbish on a local street Credit Stephen Furner

H aringey Council is to introduce a fly-tipping strategy to combat the issue of litter blighting streets in Tottenham and the wider borough.

The strategy aims to create a sense of civic pride in our neighbourhoods. Leader of Haringey Council, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor said: "It's about creating circumstances where it's easier for people to get rid of their waste and their rubbish. It's also about making communities prouder of what their neighbourhood looks like, and partly, I take on board that maybe the council needs to do a little bit more with cleaning.

"Part of the problem is that the council is so efficient with collecting fly-tips, that people just complain about fly-tips and it goes- maybe we're creating the circumstances where other people think, that's how they get rid of their rubbish. That can't be the case."

According to waste disposal experts Hippo, Haringey is the second worst borough in London for fly-tipping. The strategy, which is yet to be consulted on and brought to cabinet, follows examples set in Barking and Dagenham and other local authorities.

"We'll look at hotspots; we'll leaflet residents within those hotspots, we'll tell them how they should put out their rubbish; we might have community skip days, where we'll bring a skip and people will come out and get rid of all of their rubbish at that time. Quite frankly, there's no real reason to dump any of the big stuff nearby... And then we will enforce," said Cllr Ejiofor.

"We will enforce assertively, but we would much rather use education and carrots than a stick."

Anthony Flaum, Co-Founder of community clean-up group, Tidy Up Tottenham said: "Deterrents need to be structured and introduced in a multi-layered way- one deterrent might matter to one fly-tipper but not to another.

"We need to understand who is fly-tipping, why, and what might

By Luchia Robinson

deter them effectively. The strategy does go into detail on this subject. There is a feeling that enforcement on fly-tipping might become more pro-active in its approach and more severe in its penalties, which, personally I would welcome.

"The long-term deterrent will always be subtler and complicated than this. Ensuring that there is sufficient and effective infrastructure to cope with the waste produced by such a densely populated and transient area like Tottenham is one part, but also making people proud of where they live and proud of the environment is another part, which takes time."

People caught fly-tipping can be fined £400 if prosecuted at a Magistrates Court, they can receive an unlimited fine and prison sentence of up to five years if convicted at a Crown Court.

"We don't want to have to use the law in order to ensure that people keep their neighbourhood tidy, but we will if we have to," said Cllr Ejiofor.

"We desperately need people to have that pride in their community and we (the council) will keep it tidy, but we need our residents to help us keep it tidy as well."

County lines arrests made

Officers unite to tackle cross country drug gangs

rrests have been made in Haringey as part of a co-ordinated police operation against county line gangs involved in drug dealing and exploitation of young people.

The term 'county lines' is used to describe gangs using dedicated mobile phone lines to transfer drugs across the country. Children and vulnerable adults are often recruited through violence and coercion to store and move the drugs.

The Metropolitan Police along with officers from Devon and Cornwall targeted Haringey, Lewisham and Hackney, and searched addresses in St Bodmin, St Austell and Newquay, Cornwall– simultaneously entering the properties in the early hours, under Section 8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

Ten properties were identified as being part of a county line that fed through from London to Cornwall.

Nine people were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to supply Class A drugs, and modern slavery and human trafficking offences.

"Drug and violent crime will not be tolerated in our borough"

Councillor Mark Blake, Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Engagement at Haringey Council, said: "This should serve as a clear message that drug and violent crime will not be tolerated in our borough.

"Across the country authorities and the police are working together to track down and identify those responsible. As gang violence continues to affect young people across London – and in Haringey – we must all take a stand against those responsible for this crime and exploitation."

Detective Superintendent Luke Marks from the Metropolitan Police Service said: "The warrants executed weren't just about taking suspected criminals off the street; more importantly they were about protecting vulnerable people who are exploited due to their age, debt, addiction, mental health problems or other issues that make them an easy target. We won't tolerate it."

Schools merger proposed

Schools merger could resist academisation

By Simon Allin, Local Democracy Reporter

A struggling Tottenham primary school could be merged with a nearby school to resist the Government's bid to turn it into an academy.

Stamford Hill Primary School, in Berkeley Road, was recently rated "inadequate" by education watchdog Ofsted after being hit by financial problems resulting from falling pupil numbers.

In December, Education Secretary Damian Hinds issued an order that would force the school to join an academy chain in a bid to improve its performance.

However, Haringey Council says it does not believe "forced academisation" is the right approach and wants to find a solution that takes into account "the wider needs of our school's community".

The council has instead proposed closing the school and merging it with Tiverton Primary School in Pulford Road. If the move goes ahead, pupils currently attending Stamford Hill will be given places at Tiverton– which lies a short distance away on the opposite side of Seven Sisters Road. Cllr Elin Weston, Cabinet member for Children, Education and Families, told the March 12th cabinet meeting: "As an authority, and personally, we do not think academisation is the right approach.

"Instead, we believe we as a council are best placed – in consultation with our schools – to make decisions that support the needs of children and young people and the wider needs of our schools' community."

Growing numbers of schools are

joining academy chains to deal with rising budget deficits resulting from real-terms cuts to government education spending.

Academies are funded directly by the Government and are also able to raise revenue through sponsorship deals with businesses and other organisations.

But opponents of academisation – which removes schools from the control of local councils – claim it takes away democratic oversight of education and does not lead to better outcomes for children.

Academisation can also have a knock-on effect on a council's ability to finance the schools that remain under its control.

Several schools in neighbouring Enfield, including Walker Primary School and Galliard School, have recently faced calls from teachers,

"As an authority, and personally, we do not think academisation is the right approach"

councillors and parents to halt their plans to join academy chains.

Haringey Council says the proposed merger is supported by governors from both Tiverton and Stamford Hill primary schools.

Cabinet members agreed to launch a six-week consultation on the merger, with a final decision on the future of Stamford Hill expected to be reached in the autumn.

COMMENT

Reduction in climate destruction

The council declares a climate emergency



Students Ahmad Assaf, Jabiah Murshida, Callum Velosa and Patricia Ssonko hold placards outside Haringey Civic Centre Credit Tottenham & Wood Green Friends of the Earth

aringey Council has agreed to declare a climate emergency, following lobbying from Friends of the Earth and pupils from Woodside High School.

The declaration recognises that climate change is a threat to our civilisation and even our existence, and that time is short to avoid the worst catastrophes (some countries, like Mozambique, are already facing disaster).

The declaration includes a commitment to work together as a community, and with wider stakeholders, towards making Haringey carbon neutral by 2030; delivering impact on both production and consumption emissions. It also calls on the government and the Greater London Authority to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.

The key policies will be brought together in a new action plan to be published this summer.

We should expect and demand that Haringey's Transport Strategy really makes a difference; reallocating roadspace to cycling and walking and away from private motor vehicles. Haringey's £1bn housing in-

By Quentin Given

vestment plans should maximise opportunities to improve energy efficiency in council housing, and the Affordable Warmth Strategy should be a way to tackle energy inefficiency, particularly in the private rented sector. The decentralised energy network needs to move ahead ambitiously to provide low-carbon heat in major new developments.

Haringey Council's Pensions Committee has agreed next steps to further reduce investments in fossil fuels, but needs to confirm this at its meeting in July.

It will be up to climate activists in our different organisations to use the declaration to push the council as far as we can, and try to help them get the resources they need to deliver.

We ought to ensure that MPs and other elected representatives are on board, and cannot still support things like the Heathrow expansion.

We need to ramp up the pressure on central government and big businesses. And last but not least we should use the declaration to encourage Haringey's businesses and residents to do all they can to reduce carbon in their own practice.

What's in a name?

White Hart Lane Station to be renamed

Kate Oglesby, Local Democracy Reporter

ransport for London (TfL) has announced that White Hart Lane Station is in line to be renamed. This follows discussions between members of the London Assembly budget monitoring sub-committee and TfL bosses.

A set of "emergency" questions were scheduled during the meeting, after The Guardian reported that White Hart Lane railway station could be renamed Tottenham Hotspur, and that a deal was close to being agreed. The station is part of the London Overground network and is the nearest to Tottenham's new stadium. Patrick Doig, the divisional finance director at TfL said: "We are pursuing a long-term brand partner-

ship with Tottenham which would include the renaming of the station. "Those discussions are ongoing and have not concluded but that is

something we're seeking to work with and will be able to announce more details shortly."

It is estimated the renaming of the station could cost the club £14.7 million, although Doig said this was not confirmed and that TfL was working to "reduce the costs." He also assured Assembly Members that the money paid out to TfL as part of the deal would be more than just the value of the naming rights of the station.

Doig said there is currently an "independent" evaluation being undertaken to determine the value of the deal, adding: "We're confident with the deal we're going to secure.

"We're looking to make a longterm partnership and we think that can help generate revenue streams in TfL and we're looking to have a broader and positive impact in the local community."

Doig expects the negotiations to be concluded "shortly".



Credit Stephen Furner

NEWS

NEWS

United against terror

Haringey responds to Christchurch, New Zealand terror attack



ocal faith leaders, councillors, community members and police representatives, gathered at a vigil held at Wightman Road Mosque, in solidarity with those affected by the terror attack upon two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, which killed 50 people, last month.

Speaking to TCP, Imam Khidir Hussain from Masjid Ayesha, Clyde Road, N15, said: "As you can imagine, the attack has affected not only people in Tottenham, but the wider Muslim community. "Generally, we have been okay here. We have addressed the issue and called on our community to remain calm and retaliate with love and compassion.

"We've had local neighbours, who are not of the same faith, drop in to give us flowers and ask how we are. The local Muslim community appreciates the condolences given to us and we want to thank the community for showcasing their support. There are still loving and caring people out there. "We don't want these incidents to

divide the community but rather be

reasons for us to come together." In response to the targeted attack, Da'ud Sheikh-Ali, general manager of Assunah Islamic Centre, Tottenham High Road, said: "We are all mourning. It is something that has shocked everybody. Everyone is concerned and people are worried- these things can happen anytime, anywhere.

"We're being sandwiched between two extreme groups and there's worry that someone may retaliate or copy what has happened in New Zealandeven though it is a minority, the threat





is still there."

He added: "Some of the media is not helping at all; sensationalising what has happened, plays into the hands of these extremists."

Speaking at a full council meeting last month, Haringey leader, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor offered condolences, support and friendship to the terror victims and their families on behalf of the residents of Haringey.

"The murder of 50 people whilst they were peacefully at prayer is a shameful, terrorist act," said Cllr Ejiofor.

"The fact that this terrorist act has had the effect of bringing people together, around the world, is the one positive thing that comes from it. We hope that these new bonds and friendships will prove enduring, and defeat the haters."

Cllr Ejiofor highlighted Haringey's multicultural and multiethnic make up, saying: "The goal of the Christchurch terrorist was to get several communities, like our own, to divide and fight amongst ourselves. It aimed to set Muslim against Christian, against Jew. It aimed to set black against white- here, he has failed. But I am saddened that this hateful act has emboldened some white racists on the streets of Britain, and encouraged a Muslim to take revenge on the streets of Utrecht.

"We cannot – no, we must not allow hate to beget hate."

"We are a committed, cohesive, connected community, clear in our expression to the world that an attack on any one of us, is an attack on every one of us."

If you do see something suspicious, please contact the police on 999 or the counter terror hotline on 0800 789 321.

By Luchia Robinson

ENVIRONMENT

Arts & Culture The TEDxTottenham team create a space to discuss and explore

Greening Tottenham Lock

Mayor funds floating reed bed project





ommunity-led waterways clean-up group Stonebridge Lock Coalition (SLC) has been awarded £20,000 to green the Lee Navigation thanks to the Mayor of London's Greener City Fund and match funding from Canal and River Trust. The Mayor created the fund as part of his plans to make London a National Park City, where more than half of London's area is green by 2050.

The news has been well received by SLC members, who are working with stakeholders, and Haringey Council to improve our waterways. Jane Halsall, who lives on the Lee Navigation, said: "Instead of watching swans make their home in piles of plastic bags, which is a very depressing sight, we will have the joy of seeing them nest amongst beautiful sedges, rushes, purple loosestrife and flag irises."

By Frances Dismore

In addition to greening the con-

crete-banked canal and providing

seasonal interest for people using

the towpath, floating reedbeds will

create priority habitat for wildlife.

They will buffer against severe

temperatures and create habitat

for fish nurseries, providing larval

food-plants for insects and nectar

"As a child Tottenham Marshes

was my playground" said local

"We are very lucky to have these

wildlife habitats on our doorstep;

Tottenham Marshes, a nature

reserve, Lockwood Reservoir, a site

of special scientific interest, and

the globally important, Ramsar

designated Walthamstow Wetlands!

I want to ensure that these areas are

looked after so that all local people,

now and in the future, can get into nature. That's why I'm proud to be a member of SLC. We're a group of res-

idents concerned about our planet

and the problems affecting it, such

as plastic pollution in the oceans,

but also the decline of biodiversi-

ty because of loss of habitats. We

volunteer our time to engage in

grassroots action to address this."

Cllr Ruth Gordon, Tottenham Hale Ward has participated in SLC

waterway clean-up events, she said:

forage for pollinators too.

resident, Dr Emma Chan.

"Huge congratulations are due to the volunteers in SLC in winning this award from the Mayor of London's Green City Fund. It's vital for the immediate and long-term health of residents of Tottenham Hale that we all work together to improve the wonderful natural assets we have in Tottenham Marshes and along the waterways.

"Parts of this ward are afflicted with dreadfully poor air quality, so maintaining, improving and protecting our open spaces is more vital than ever. I'm determined to keep the issue of green and open public spaces high on the council's agenda. I would urge local residents to get volunteering with the SLC. It's great fun and really gratifying when you see what a difference can be made clearing up the junk and litter and letting the wildlife flourish."

Stonebridge Lock Coalition is a Thames21 badged group. Thames21 is one of the country's leading waterway charities. For more information:

Email stonebridgelockcoalition@ gmail.com to sign up for floating reedbed building days.

Events are posted on our Facebook page: \StonebridgeLock

Crossword Solutions No.8



PHOTOGRAPHY -















This series of photos celebrates the variety of different services and activities on offer at the Selby Centre. Since 1992 the Selby Trust has operated as a multi-purpose community and social enterprise centre, housing a mix of organisations all committed to serving their local community. In addition to this it is also home to a boxing gym, wedding and function venue and the Ding Dong Fun Bus – a soft play area for kids. These photographs were taken to shine a spotlight on some of the Selby Centre's hidden gems.

Visit selbytrust.co.uk

Photographs by Nima Shahmalekpur

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 if you would like to be featured on our photography page. **Email** tcp@socialspider.com

YOUTH -

This month, children's book specialist Helen Swinyard focusses on titles for young people

No longer used just for scary villains or as danger lookouts, about tower blocks castles or journey landmarks; towers are now emerging as places which rightly reflect the homes of readers. As a feature of the Tottenham landscape, they literally tower over us- and now they can tower on the page too. Towers are often used in more classic literature as symbols of strength or isolation – and our children's writers continue to use them to full effect.



Run, Riot by Nikesh Shukla (2018)

Nikesh Shukla is an award-winning author for adults and young people, who is vocal about inclusion and representation in children's books. His YA (Young Adult) book Run, Riot is set over one night within the tower block and estate in which the main characters live (one of these being Riot).

In the introduction to the book, Shukla notes that he drafted the story prior to the Grenfell Tower tragedy, but that the events of 2017 "loomed large" in his consciousness whilst he continued to finish the book.

The story unravels slowly with each minichapter headed by the time of day. As a reader, you need to keep an eye on this, as not everything is chronological, but it definitely adds to the pace and immediacy of the thriller style and helps you to keep reading.

It's not often a bunch of teenagers unveil a conspiracy, have to spend a night hiding for their lives, and still deal with typical teenage problems.

This is an amazing book which feels very real- a great introduction for teenagers into urban fiction.



Overheard in a Tower Block by Joseph Coelho, Illustrated by Kate Milner (2017)

A lovely collection of modern poetry for children and young people, which the blurb describes as "a powerful and moving poetic narrative about growing up in the city." It's a collection of Coelho's memories of

growing up in a tower block in London, that has lots of personal details in there. It's emotional and honest, yet funny.

The poems are fantastic for younger teenagers because they treat the reader with maturity, but are also quite short and easy to read. Milner's illustrations are simple, black and white lines, that are very emotive.

E The towerblocks are falling and his will be next...

10

The Boy in the Tower

POLLY HO-YEN

by Polly Ho-Yen (2014)

The sci-fi genre, so popular in 1970s writing, is making a comeback. In 2019 it's slipping more into space sci-fi, but Polly Ho-Yen's contribution, only a few years ago is a direct result of her love for 1952's Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham.

The Boy in the Tower is set in London, with a backdrop to a new world filled with killer plants. It firmly sits in the survival/ postapocalyptic genre, with even the opening paragraph playing homage.

Ho-Yen's story is very contemporary, with the main character living high up in a tower block, worried about his friend Gaia who lives in the tower block opposite.

Blocks are crumbling and whole buildings are disappearing. School is closed. People are evacuating. But Ade (Adeola) can't leave because of his mum's agoraphobia.

It's heart-felt and real, despite being set in a strange new world.

Ade is a resourceful young person, and a small motley crew of remaining tower block residents help him to survive.

Ho-Yen moves you through a whole range of emotions as a reader- it's a rollercoaster all the way through.



The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tiler by Gene Kemp (1977)

School stories have always been a staple of children's fiction, but Kemp revived the genre, winning the prestigious Carnegie Medal for this story with a twist.

Kemp details the daily dramas at Cricklepit School, which come to a tense climax. It's so hard to say too much about the book without ruining the twist, but it's cleverly sculpted to keep the reveal until the last possible moment.

Looking back, I would say this book was ahead of its time, in highlighting how we see and treat each other when we're growing up, and how we view people who are different to us. Again, it's really hard to explain why, without ruining the story...

Exposure is a multi-award winning youth communications charity enabling young people in north London to thrive creatively - for the good of others, as well as themselves.

exposure

The diversity effect: Where are minorities in modern fiction?

Ruby Snell examines the lack of difference in film, television and literature

iction has been a tool of guidance and escapism for young people for centuries. But when there are no characters that share your experience of the world; fiction can quickly exacerbate loneliness, isolation and a sense of abnormality.

Minority groups are consistently underrepresented in all forms of media. From television to films to literature, great swathes of characters are churned out every year in a standardised mass of conformity. Despite the excellent legal progress made in recent years to bring about equality (such as marriage rights for same sex couples and a relaxation of the laws on gender reassignment) the media has been slow to respond to demand.

Particularly for young people living in small communities, where access to real-world support from those like them is restricted, fiction without diversity can worsen feelings of isolation. It is easy to regress into a state of denial and selfhatred if there are no positive role models available to you.

Additionally, the mere existence of minority characters still garners a tidal wave response, with keyboard warriors across the world quickly decrying such media as 'political correctness gone mad' or 'the snowflakes at it again'.

When will people realise that minorities exist outside of fiction? It is telling that our society devours high fantasy content like Game of Thrones and Lord of the Rings, but views a black Hermione Granger, a step too far from reality.

Shockingly enough, minority people are not born to serve a political agenda. It is not revolutionary or radical to want the absolute basics of representation. Much of the outcry about diversity in fiction stems from a lack of understanding. For people who have never been discriminated against, representation is taken severely for granted.

Cinemas and libraries have always been packed to bursting with stories about white culture

representation illustration Credit Ruby Snell

and heterosexual romance. By no fault of their own, those whose stories are represented have simply never known what it is like to feel invisible in the media- to feel like there are few characters or stories out there that

share their experience. The most pressing question is how to solve this chronic deficit of diversity.

Media organisations are making attempts to represent a wider demographic; however, their methodology often misses the mark.

It is patronising and embarrassing when TV shows parade their minority character for 'diversity points'. Often, these characters are two-dimensional, with little personality beyond their 'minority trait' and a negligible influence on the plot.

The phrase "kill your gays" springs to mind; a bitter joke among the LGBT+ community to describe how the few queer characters that do exist are often quickly written out of TV shows once they have served their purpose of being a contribution to political correctness. They are a mere token, readily scrapped if conservative audiences react badly. So what are the solutions? To some extent, this starts with the education system. Removing the



This could be as little as hosting a film club that screens movies that are diverse or challenge the status quo, or ensuring sex education is LGBT+ inclusive.

Alternatively, schools could incorporate information workshops about the minority experience into their pastoral curriculum to deconstruct the stereotypes. Additionally, fiction should be created where the minority experience is not the focus. Contrary to popular belief, characters can exist where their 'atypical' trait is not central to the story. This model for diversity is most accurate to real life; no one hinges their entire identity and life story on one aspect of themselves.

However, this is not to say that the potential for diverse fiction is not already out there. It is also vital to elevate the voices of minorities who are already writing about their personal experiences. Often, these people are marginalised by the creative industries because straight, white, middle class voices are seen as more marketable.

The demand for minority representation is there- now it is a matter of creating and distributing the content.

Poem on Social Media Obsession by Kishen Patel

Comment. Repost. Send. Will it ever end? Fingerprint. Home button. Try again. Unlocked. Spamming messages? Blocked. Tap tap click. Swipe. Decline the Skype. Send tweet. Whoosh. Scroll down. Back up. Like. Binary strings. Os and 1s. Next instruction waits. Loading screen. App crashes. Download the next update. Spend the day away On technicolour screens. Brains slowly melting into antisocial machines. Stuck in a loop. Reality is fading. Headphones on. Volume up. The same song replaying. Followers. Likes. Activity. That's all we care about. Friends. Family. Everyone. Disappear day in, day out. Wake up, for God's sake. Escape your own head. Get off your screen and on your feet and live in the real world instead. Comment. Repost. Send. Guess it's never going to end.





ARTS & CULTURE

Tottenham: the place we make

Creating a space to discuss and explore



TEDxTottenham speaker Credit Harry Mitchell

By Catherine Mbema Co-founder and Curator. **TEDxTottenham**

hen my husband, Yaw and I first attended TEDxBrixton,

almost six years ago now, we were so impacted by the event that we immediately thought about how a similar event could be used to impact Yaw's hometown of Tottenham. A short while later TEDxTottenham was born! For those not familiar with the TEDx

brand; TEDx events are independently organised and typically consist of a number of talks sharing a particular idea or concept delivered by a diverse range of talented speakers. There are also interactive spaces outside of the talks based around a

particular theme.

TEDxTottenham is the local version that Yaw and I co create. It aims to give a platform for passionate and driven residents to share their stories; inspiring them to impart their love of the area and take ownership of what is truly their community.

We've always aimed for TEDxTottenham to be something that really impacts the local community, so for each event we build a team of local volunteers to help plan and shape the event, bringing it to life.

Themes from previous events have included 'Synergy' and 'Think Beyond', however, this year our theme is 'The Place We Make'. The premise is to explore the interdependent relationship between

communities and their environment. In healthcare we are very much aware of the relationship between environmental design and plant life and their impact upon the health, wellbeing and healing of recuperating patients. Within housing we understand both the positive and, in some cases, negative effects of particular forms of architecture. As a team, we want to explore, but primarily learn more about the relationships between place making, physical environments and space.

We felt as though 'places' didn't just necessarily relate to architecture and urbanism, but could be extended to incorporate 'spaces' of other kinds. For example, one of our founding members has now gone on to create a hugely successful book club that resonates with young black women. She and her team have been instrumental in making a place or safe space, and not in an exclusionary sense.

We can all be instrumental in impacting and shaping the community we want to be a part of, whether physically or otherwise.

If you are interested in hearing some creative ideas, meeting new people from the area and being part of the conversation at 'The Place We Make', then please come along! We have some great speakers and performers from the local area, lined up to share ideas about place making, and how the collective influences of science, technology, art and culture shape our community.

TEDxTottenham: The Place We Make takes place on Saturday. 13th April at the Bernie Grant Arts Centre.

For more information Visit tedxtottenham.com

The gift of art

Tottenham artist gifts portrait to Middlesex University

n award winning photorealist from Tottenham has gifted one of his pencil portraits to Middlesex University. Artist Kelvin Okafor presented the portrait, 'Mia's Interlude' at a ceremony held on campus, where he himself studied, ten years ago.

"Mia was my first subject model after I graduated from here so I thought it would be a fitting gift. I get my inspiration from the moment we're living in, from the here and now, the beauty and flow of life," said Kelvin.

"My message to students is that life is beautiful and challenging. Meet and face your problems. Be true to yourself and don't give up."

Kelvin described how it had been a long journey since he was paid £150 at his final year show at The Old Truman Brewery, for one of his drawings of the lions in Trafalgar Square.

"It was £150 but it felt like £150,000. For the first time I realised this could be my life. I could be an artist and do what I love doing and make a living."

'Mia's interlude' is a charcoal and graphite portrait of Kelvin's family friend Mia Cadman, at 11 years old. Kelvin has been drawing Mia every two years since she was three years old, following her journey through life. Kelvin plans to continue creating portraits of Mia.

Since graduating from Middlesex in 2009 with BA (Hons) in Fine Art, Kelvin has won numerous awards for his detailed drawings, which each take more than 100 hours to create. Kelvin's subjects have included Naomi Campbell, Sir Derek Jacobi and Tinie Tempah.

In 2017 Kelvin became the first black artist to be permanently exhibited in the House of Commons as part of the Parliamentary Art Collection. His portrait of the late Bernie Grant MP hangs outside the Attlee room in Portcullis House.

Art critic and writer. Estelle Lovatt describes Kelvin as one of the very best draughtsmen working today, who like a great master, sculpts a face on a piece of paper out of light and shadow.

"I love to draw faces. Each face to me, tells an intriguing story regardless of age, gender, race or background," said Kelvin.

"In the process of putting pencil to paper, I begin by drawing in sections/stages. Since I was a child I have always created drawings this way. I visually dissect facial features -I study them and then I put them back together like pieces in a puzzle. This method of creating helps me understand expressions and also helps me



appreciate the lengthy process each portrait drawing takes."

Commenting on Kelvin's gift to Middlesex, Professor Carole-Anne Upton, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Creative Industries, said:

"It is absolutely thrilling to have Kelvin back here and see his work in The Grove. He says he's honoured to be here, but we're the ones who are honoured. We are so proud of what Kelvin has achieved."

COMMUNITY

Dance really is for all

Broadwater Farm dancers showcase their moves



Dancers display their skills Credit Ross Truefitt

By Kasia Truefitt, A Truefitt Collective

n Thursday 28th February, dance initiative, DANCE FOR ALL presented a community performance on Broadwater Farm. The showwas choreographed in partnership with professional dance artists and families of participants. We invited members of the public

to join us in celebrating the end of

the dance project, and to support their local community.

DANCE FOR ALL, supported by Haringey Council, was started last September by A Truefitt Collective– a Tottenham based dance theatre company on a mission to 'promote healthy minds and bodies.'

The project offers weekly family dance workshops for all ages and abilities on Broadwater Farm, providing a safe place for local families to meet new people within their community and focus on family bonding as they learn different styles of dance.

DANCE FOR ALL has been highly beneficial for the community, with 80% of participants agreeing that the workshops have allowed them to connect to their community, whilst the varying dance and fitness exercises, have improved their confidence.

"DANCE FOR ALL is inclusive for all ages & backgrounds, we have enjoyed meeting other families, being pushed out of our comfort zone and having the opportunity to exercise together," said a participating family.

We really do believe that dance is for all and we are looking to fundraise £1,500 to support the continuation of the project.

If you are interested in taking part in future family dance workshops, we would love you to get in touch and share the project amongst your peers. Any donations to our fundraiser would be greatly received.

For more information: Email: atruefittcollective@ outlook.com Visit atruefittcollective.com Facebook @atruefittcollective Instagram @atruefittcollective

To donate: gofundme.com/gpzq2dance-for-all

Music by women, for women

By Rachel Ho

ast month, on 8th March-International Women's Day, Women In Tottenham and local promoter, Helkat Music, organised a live music event at The Cause in Tottenham Hale.

The music was preceded by meet-up drinks to celebrate the first birthday of Women in Tottenham- a website that I created, which highlights the amazing things local women are doing.

Over the last 12 months, more than 50 Tottenham women have been interviewed for the site, and the pre-music drinks brought many of the interviewees together.

The live performances on the night were all women-led, so too was the team behind the scenes, including the tech crew and stage management.

Given that the music industry is still generally male centric, this was a platform to highlight the talent and abilities of women on this occasion.

Performances came from DJ LRO; local rapper and entrepreneur, WondR WomN; rock duo, Riches; indie rock band, SILVA, and Mumma Sue, a spoken word performer who has lived in Tottenham for 25 years. A diverse crowd of around 100 people, women and men attended. Earlier in the afternoon, a female only open decks session was run by Sisu, who are a collective focused on helping female identifying DJs kick-start their careers in a field dominated by men.

There was also a collection of sanitary pad donations. These items are passed on to local charities who support homeless and financially challenged women. Donations on the night went to the women that, local charity, CARIS Haringey work with.

Whilst gender equality has come a long way, there is still some way to go. This music event was a chance to celebrate the achievements and talents of women from a range of backgrounds in our local community.

Want to know more? Women in Tottenham:

womenintottenham.com

Helkat Music: facebook.com/HelKatMusic

Sisu: sisucrew.com

Collection boxes for sanitary donations can be found at: Tottenham Green Market, Town Hall Approach Road, N15 4UR and Craving Coffee, The Mill Co. Project, 3 Gaunson House, Markfield Road, N15 4QQ



WondR WomN performs at The Cause Credit Rachel Ho



Dancing together in the final show **Credit** Ross Truefitt

LITERATURE

Boundary line

Karin Lock reviews, The Wall by John Lanchester



E ver wondered what 'Fortress Britain' might look like? John Lanchester's gritty new book is a concrete example of what 'taking back control' could entail and his hard hitting prose will make even the most complacent of readers feel uneasy.

The Wall recounts the experiences of Kavanagh, a young man starting his two-year conscription duty as one of the country's 200,000 'Defenders'. His job is to guard the nation's 10,000 kilometre coastal defence wall while keeping out desperate boat people called 'Others' who threaten to invade day or night.

Whilst enduring icy twelve hour shifts patrolling the wall, Kavanagh reflects on the draconian yet eerily familiar world that has evolved since the unspecified climatic 'Change'.

Food is scarce; beaches have disappeared; and only the elite can afford to fly. All young people must work on the wall unless they become higher-status 'breeders', an option that offers better jobs and homes. Children will ostensibly provide a constant supply of Defenders.

The chilling inner logic of *The Wall's* bleak vision unfurls with precision and suspense. Planes, drones and boats patrol the ocean but the Defender's role as back line border defence carries additional risks. Make a mistake and your wall time is extended. Let in Others and you become an Other as penance, tossed out to sea. Ironically, 'unchipped' Others who succeed are soon caught and are either killed, thrown out or work as help in unpaid domestic servitude.

The Wall is a home grown allegory that will appeal to fans of The Handmaid's Tale or The Hunger Games. Lanchester uses the dystopian genre to cleverly explore the effect of dehumanised narratives concerning immigration, food security and economic inequality. This book is a rumination on what happens when compassion and empathy are relinquished.

Lanchester's message is clear and prescient: the winds of change are coming and, like an episode of *Black Mirror*, the outcome may surprise us all.

POETRY CORNER

Analogs by Alec Dunnachie

We are brains, we have no earthly bodies, and we glide around like starfish. For us the air conducts electricity and we communicate, ro-bo-tic, through a form of tele-communi-cation. Neither awake nor asleep we are like the Buddha, but we were born this way. We do not speak and we certainly do not write. We had these words written down for us. We do not eat for we need no energy. We have evolved beyond the material. And we are millions. Invisible to the eye, we neither live nor die. We make love through deep magnetic spells. But we do not reproduce through the normal means. We are pure imagination. You might think we do not exist. Although we are all different, we are analogs of each other. We are manifestations of pure love: we are brains, we are love. We are like bubbles but we have no outside structure.

We are analogs of each other.

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LISTINGS

Upcoming

Tottenham Aspirations Tuesday 2nd April, 5:00pm-7.00pm London Academy of Excellence Tottenham, Lilywhite House, 780 High Road N17 OBX

Come to hear from those involved in the admissions process at leading universities in the UK including Oxford, LSE and King's College. Explore what is it like to study at a leading university and what the top universities are looking for in successful applicants.

To book eventbrite.co.uk/e/ tottenham-aspirations-tickets-56875744884?aff=ebdssbdestsearch Call 020 8352 6020 Visit laetottenham.org.uk

Easter Festival Saturday 6th April, 1.00pm–4.00pm The Engine Room, Unit A, Eagle Heights, Lebus Street, Hale Village N17 9FU

Easter egg hunt, 'Balconies in Bloom' launch, arts and crafts, indoor market, table tennis tournament, food and more!

Email info@engineroom.org.uk Call 0208 808 5490

Tidy Up Tottenham Litter Pick Sunday 7th April, 10.00am-3.00pm Tottenham Green Market, Town Hall Approach Rd, Tottenham Green N15 4RY

We will be holding a small event to talk with residents about the issue of litter in Tottenham. We will be doing a litter pick on the Green and around the area. We'll also have activities for the kids and some give aways too!

Check our Facebook page for more details Facebook /tidyuptottenham Easter Holiday Play Scheme Monday 8th–Thursday 18th April 10:00am–3:00pm Markfield, Markfield Rd N15

Come and join us at our Easter play scheme. Pre-booked places only.

For more information: Call 0203 667 5232 Email jseaden@markfield.org.uk

Race Today Showcase Performance Friday 12th April, 7.30pm Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Town Hall Approach Road, Tottenham Green N154RX

Race Today is a new uncompromising, funny, political and interactive performance where some decisions rest with the audience! Writers of colour have created immersive scenes as a part of a workshop process engaging with the topic of race and representation in today's society.

Tickets: £10/£8 Concessions Call 0208 365 5450 Email boxoffice@ berniegrantcentre.co.uk

SOAS Musicians Series Tuesday 16th April, 7.30pm–11.30pm Balabam, 58-60 High Rd N15 6JU

Bringing you a selection of the diverse sounds of SOAS. Musicians Moa and Maya – founders of Flotsam Sessions – will play songs from far and beyond. Folk songs and stories from around the globe, presented on Cello, Kora, Mandolin, Bansitar and Song. Musicians Sophia and Charlie will also be performing on the night.

For more information: Visit balabam.co.uk Facebook /Flotsamsessions Call 07403 693 669

Ongoing

Quilting and Patchwork Course Each Wednesday from 3rd April 2:15pm-3:15pm Downhills Park Cafe, 60 Downhills Park Rd, West Green N17 6PB

This is an exciting course for anyone who loves pattern and colour. It is fun and relaxing, designed for complete beginners to build skills and confidence in sewing and creating beautiful patchwork. You will learn how to cut and press accurately, sew using quarter inch seaming to make geometric patterns and hand quilt to produce a vibrant finished piece of work.

For more information: Call 07947 466236

Tottenham Green Market Each Sunday 11.00am-3.30pm Tottenham Green Market, Town Hall Approach Rd N15 4RY

Come and experience fresh pasta, vegan street food, hot patties, local artisan breads and more!

For more information: Visit tottenhamgreenmarket.co.uk

Venture Club for Blind and Partially Sighted Fridays, 12.30pm-3pm St Ann's Library, Cissbury Road, N15 5PU

We are a social club that organises activities, parties, games, raffles and excursions for visually impaired people in Haringey. Transport to and from your home can be provided if necessary.

Membership is £5.00 per year. For more information:

Call 0208 801 0924 (Michael)

Awareness Through Movement Classes – The Feldenkrais Method Tuesdays, 9.30–10.30am Higham Rd, Tottenham N17 6NU

The Feldenkrais practitioner will lead participants through a sequence of slow and gentle movements. Everyone is welcome to drop in. Wear loose comfortable clothing. Mats are available or bring your own.

£6 per class drop-in, free taster For more information:

Visit movementaware.co.uk/thefeldenkrais-method/

Silver Fit

Tuesday mornings, 10.30–12.00 Higham Road, Tottenham N17 6NU

Join us for exercises, socialising and refreshments. Choose from Nordic walkingpoles will be provided (limited to 12 people, first come first served); Silver cheerleading (pom-poms provided); yoga and badminton.

£1 for members/£2:50 for nonmembers. The first session is free. Membership costs only £12/annum or give us a call & pay on the day

Drop-In Watercolour Painting Class Every Monday, 11.30am–1.30pm Higham Road, Tottenham N17 6NU

Our daytime Monday drop-in class for watercolour painting is held in the lottery funded environmentally 'green' community building, the Lordship Hub Co-op. A tutor will be on hand to provide advice and guidance on how to get started in watercolour and develop your work further. Suitable for all levels including absolute beginners.

£8 Price includes paints and brushes. Paper and pencils available to buy Tea, Coffee and IT

Wednesdays, 2:30–4:30pm Lordship Hub, Higham Rd N17 6NU

Come bond and learn some IT skills with your neighbours over a free beverage. Design a website, learn how to use online platforms and get the most out of your technology. You can also play Scrabble, Jenga or card games if you prefer. Please bring your phone or tablet along if you have one.

Free Visit lordshiphub.org.uk Call 020 8885 5684

Tottenham Social Street Food Pop Ups Every Thursday–Saturday *Bar* 5pm–11pm / *Food* 6pm–10pm Craving Coffee, Unit 3, Gaunson House, Markfield Road N15 4QQ

Tottenham Social invites street food traders to take over our kitchen with diverse cuisines from around the globe. Each night, the lights are dimmed, candles lit, and a hand-picked trader pitches up and cooks. Craft beers, choice wines, bespoke cocktails and boutique soft drinks are served at the bar. Vegan options available.

Mains £10 and under

Visit cravingcoffee.co.uk/ tottenham-social

Community Soup

Fridays, 12.00–3.00pm T on the Green, Bruce Castle Park, Lordship Lane N17 8NJ

If you know anyone in the community who would benefit from a bowl of hot soup then tell them to come down to T on the Green.

Free Call 020 8808 5638

CROSSWORD <u>by Ajayess</u>

Across Clues

- 1 In a rush (5)
- **3** A destination of the A10 (9)
- **9** Month with fewest days (8)
- **10** Holder for breakfast item (6)
- **11** Meadow (3)
- 12 Over there (6)
- 14 Fatal (6)
- 16 Move apart (7)
- 17 Restrict (7)
- **19** Area beside a road (7)
- **20** To desert (7)
- **22** Incompetent failure (6)
- 24 Tax on goods (6)
- 26 Also (3)
- 27 Sufficient (6)
- 28 Strictest; Most serious (8)
- **29** Interfering with something to cause damage (9)
- **30** Even (5)

SSWORD <u>by AJayess</u> Clues Down Clues

- 1 Rather heavy (5)
- 2 Consequence of sleep deprivation (9)
- 4 Victorian place for the mentally ill (6)
- 5 Very basic food, hence routinely ordinary (5,3,6)
- 6 Cut into small cubes (5)
- **7** Void (5)
- 8 Cinderella's saviour (5, 9)
- **13** Art of paper-folding (7)
- 15 Made redundant (4,3)
- 18 Lack of knowledge (9)
- 21 Selected (6)
- 22 Group of ships (5)
- **23** Deflation (5)
- 25 Deadly (5)



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What we do

Here at *Tottenham Community Press*, we do things differently. We believe that local newspapers should put the concerns of the local community at the heart of their publication. We combine professional journalism with voluntary contributions from people who live and work in the local area and create content which is responsive to and reflective of the community.

These are challenging times for print media, with many newspapers closing and advertising revenue in decline, but our not-for-profit model offers a new approach to creating local news which is inclusive and accountable.

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- Free Tottenham Community Press tote bag (£5+ only)
- Home delivery of the paper (£5+ only)

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Visit tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/join