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TOTTENHAM COMMUNITY PRESS

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December 2018
Nº.17, Free

Local news that matters to you

Demolishing the arguments

Broadwater Farm residents demand an estate ballot



Tangmere House, Broadwater Farm
Credit: Stephen Furner

By Luchia Robinson

Residents of the Broadwater Farm Estate are protesting against Haringey Council's application to The Greater London Authority for an exemption from the balloting condition outlined in the Mayor of London's policy on estate regeneration.

This is in regards to the Tangmere and Northolt sites on the Broadwater

Farm Estate, which both face demolition after being deemed unsafe because of their Large Panel System (LPS) structural designs.

The GLA states that Investment Partner's (in this case, Haringey Council) seeking funding to demolish and re-build social homes, must appoint an independent body to undertake a ballot for residents to determine whether the proposed demolition should go ahead.

The ballot 'should be the culmination of a period of resident consultation, engagement, and negotiation,' offering eligible residents the opportunity to vote 'yes' or 'no' as to the future of the estate. However, exemption to the resident ballot requirement can be made, particularly if it is stated that demolition is required on the grounds of resident safety that cannot be resolved reasonably through other means.

Haringey Council and represen-

tatives of Homes for Haringey told residents of the Broadwater Farm Estate, at a meeting held in August, that they would be consulted on whether the Northolt and Tangmere sites should be demolished and re-built. Residents were not offered the option of addressing whether the blocks should be strengthened rather than demolished.

Jacob Secker, Secretary Broadwater Farm Residents' Association

believes that the sole option of demolition does not give residents a real choice as to what happens to their homes. He says that strengthening the blocks is an adequate alternative to demolition.

A Structural Robustness Assessment of Tangmere House, provided by Ridge Property & Construction Consultants suggests:

'In conjunction with the removal of the gas supply we would recommend that strengthening design options are considered in order to comply with the LPS (Land & Property Services) Criteria as part of a full options study.'

Haringey Council believes demolition to be the preferred option as it guarantees all safety risks are removed entirely rather than reduced.

The council estimates the cost of strengthening the Tangmere block would be £13m and it puts the improvement works to the Northolt site at £12.5m. With other necessary works taken into account, Haringey council estimates the total improvement works to be £33.5 million. As a result of the scale and costings, the council has concluded that "the strengthening works that would be needed to make the blocks safe were prohibitively expensive."

A 28-day, Section 105 consultation that addressed the matter of strengthening the blocks as opposed to demolishing them, began in September and ended in October.

Residents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the council's proposal to demolish and rebuild the Tangmere and Northolt blocks on the estate. They were also asked whether they were unsure of the council's proposal or if they supported any other options.

Jacob Secker said: "The 28-day consultation on demolition [...] is

Continued on Page 3

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HISTORY

STEADFAST IN DIFFICULTIES

DEC 2018 – N°. 17

At *Tottenham Community Press* we believe that Tottenham deserves a newspaper that is written by and for local people, and which celebrates the 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.

Tottenham Community Press is your local newspaper, keeping you up to date with news, views and events in the local area.

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Tangmere House by Inga Bystram

Hello and welcome to issue 17! As this year draws to an end, residents of the Tangmere and Northolt blocks on the Broadwater Farm estate, both prepare for and respond to the demolishing of their homes and the re-building of new properties.

A group of young dancers get ready for their first competition (page 13) and a poetry collective use their words to affect social change in their communities (Page 12).

In this edition you'll also find some useful advice from Kellie Dorrington, Citizens Advice Haringey

on page 14; news of how the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan plans to tackle air pollution in Tottenham on page 3, as well as insight from Superintendent Nusrit Mehtab about the merger of Haringey and Enfield police on page 4.

Do send in your story ideas, poems, photography and event listings to tcp@socialspider.com I look forward to receiving them all. Also check out how you can become a TCP member on page 16 and online at tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/join.

'Thank you' for your ongoing

support throughout 2018. TCP will continue to bring you even more news and information from across Tottenham in 2019.

Luchia Robinson, Editor

My name is Rosita Pirulli. I graduated in Media and Communication at London Metropolitan University and I am now at the end of my BA Journalism course at the University of Westminster. I currently run my own show 'Young Music Talent' on London ONE Radio, where I interview

worldwide emerging musicians. Working at the radio station gives me the chance to be involved in the Tottenham community.

Rosita Pirulli, Contributor

Write for us

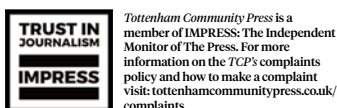
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Continued from Page-1

no substitute for a ballot. It did not contain a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ question. Residents were not shown a plan of what the Council is planning to build on the site. In all other cases of proposed demolition, master-plans showing what the estate will look like after rebuilding are shared with the residents before the decision is made. This has not been done with Broadwater Farm residents.”

The result of the 28-day consultation was taken to Cabinet last month and the decision to demolish was decided upon. According to the cabinet report: 91% of Tangmere and 81% of Northolt residents agreed to the demolition and rebuilding of the blocks.

Mr. Secker believes that the Council is going back on its promise to replace all the council homes that are demolished on the estate with at least the same number of new council homes at council rents. He references November’s cabinet report which states that the council has ‘committed to replacing any council homes which are demolished with new council homes on the estate.’

Jacob Secker said: “This is a vague commitment which does not necessarily mean that there will be an equal numbers of council homes at council rents and more family sized accommodation.”

He added: “Too many vague promises to re-provide council housing have been broken too many times before by Local Authorities demolishing council estates.”

According to the Council, as the works are ongoing, residents will be engaged in the determining of the types of designs and numbers of

homes, once proposals for the new homes have been developed. They will also be informed of how the homes will be funded and delivered. A ballot on the council’s proposals for rebuilding and the offer associated with these proposals will be held for all residents of the Broadwater Farm Estate, following the demolition of the Tangmere and Northolt blocks.

Mr. Secker is urging for a pre-demolition ballot to take place and calls for the London Assembly members to disapprove the council’s application for exemption.

Cllr Dawn Barnes, Haringey Liberal Democrat spokesperson on housing, expressed concern: “Offering a ballot but only after the decision to demolish has been made, doesn’t give residents any choice. It says ‘it’s the Council’s way or the high way’.

“As the Council admitted in its report from July, there was another option that satisfied ‘health and safety concerns’, which was strengthening the existing buildings. The choice between that and demolition and rebuild should have been offered to Broadwater Farm residents.”

The Broadwater Farm Rehousing and Payments Policy is being presented to Cabinet for approval. It outlines commitments to the residents of the two blocks which include: guaranteed rights of return to the newly built homes on the estate for all council tenants and leaseholders who need to vacate Northolt and Tangmere. It also proposes equity loans for resident leaseholders who wish to buy a new home within the borough.

Cabinet will need to agree the recommendations in the report before more detailed work on the proposals for the new homes can start.



Northolt Tower, Broadwater Farm estate Credit Stephen Furner

NEWS

New Low Emission Bus Zones to launch in Tottenham

Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan tackles air pollution in Tottenham

The area between Tottenham High Road and Green Lanes, Haringay will become a ‘clean air’ bus zone. So too will the area from Hertford Road High Street via Fore Street, Edmonton to Seven Sisters Road.

This means that, as of next year, all buses passing within these areas will be low emission vehicles that meet or exceed Euro 6 emissions standards.

This comes as Tottenham has been identified as one of the areas in London where people are exposed to some of the highest levels of nitrogen dioxide.

The Mayor of London’s plan to clean up the air will see older buses either upgraded with exhaust control systems (the Mayor has announced an £85 million programme to retrofit them) or replaced by new vehicles with specialised engines. Diesel-only buses will be phased out.

According to an evaluation report published by City Hall, hourly breaches of legal pollution limits have reduced by over 99 per cent in Putney High Street, where the low emission bus zone is already in place.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said: “Pollution from vehicles including buses are responsible for over half the harmful emissions we breathe. Low Emission Bus Zones are an effective way of dramatically reducing pollution and improving the health of thousands of Londoners who live or work along the worst air quality hotspots.”

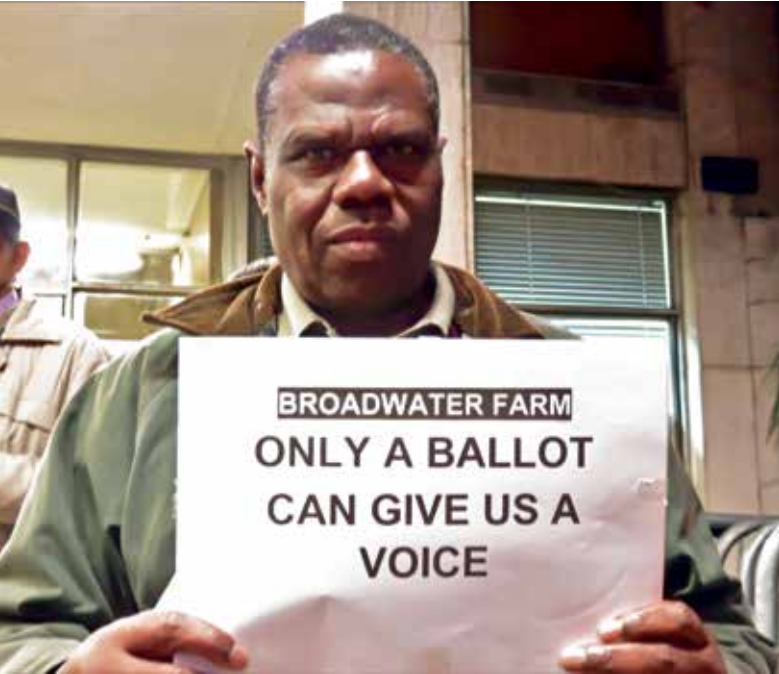
He added: “I’m doing everything in my power to improve our air, but with half of the UK’s roads which exceed legal limits located in London, the Government urgently needs to step up and allow us to access national funding for cities and to fund a national vehicle



London low emission zone sign Credit Martin Addison (Wikicommons)

scrappage scheme to rid London’s streets of the dirtiest vehicles now.”

There will be 12 low emission bus zones across London in total, all set to be delivered by the end of 2019.



A Broadwater farm resident makes his voice heard

Merging Haringey and Enfield Police: What Tottenham residents can expect

Superintendent Nusrit Mehtab explains why local policing is changing



Tottenham Police Station Credit: Sonja Trabandt

It has been fairly well publicised across London this year that from the beginning of 2019, the Metropolitan Police is going to move away from being organised along borough lines with 12 Basic Command Units (BCUs) being created across London.

Haringey Police comes under the North Area BCU and so does Enfield Police- so we will become one unit from the 9th January 2019. I have been heading the dedicated Haringey and Enfield merger team since April 2018 and I want to make sure that Tottenham residents are clear about what the changes mean for them.

Firstly, the number of front line officers will remain the same and the commitment for two neighbourhood officers plus a police community support officer for every electoral ward in Haringey

continues. This whole plan is really more of an improvement in how our stretched resources are organised. I sincerely hope that it will actually improve our service to the public in Tottenham and Haringey by increasing the flexibility we have across the two boroughs with officers, cars and custody capacity.

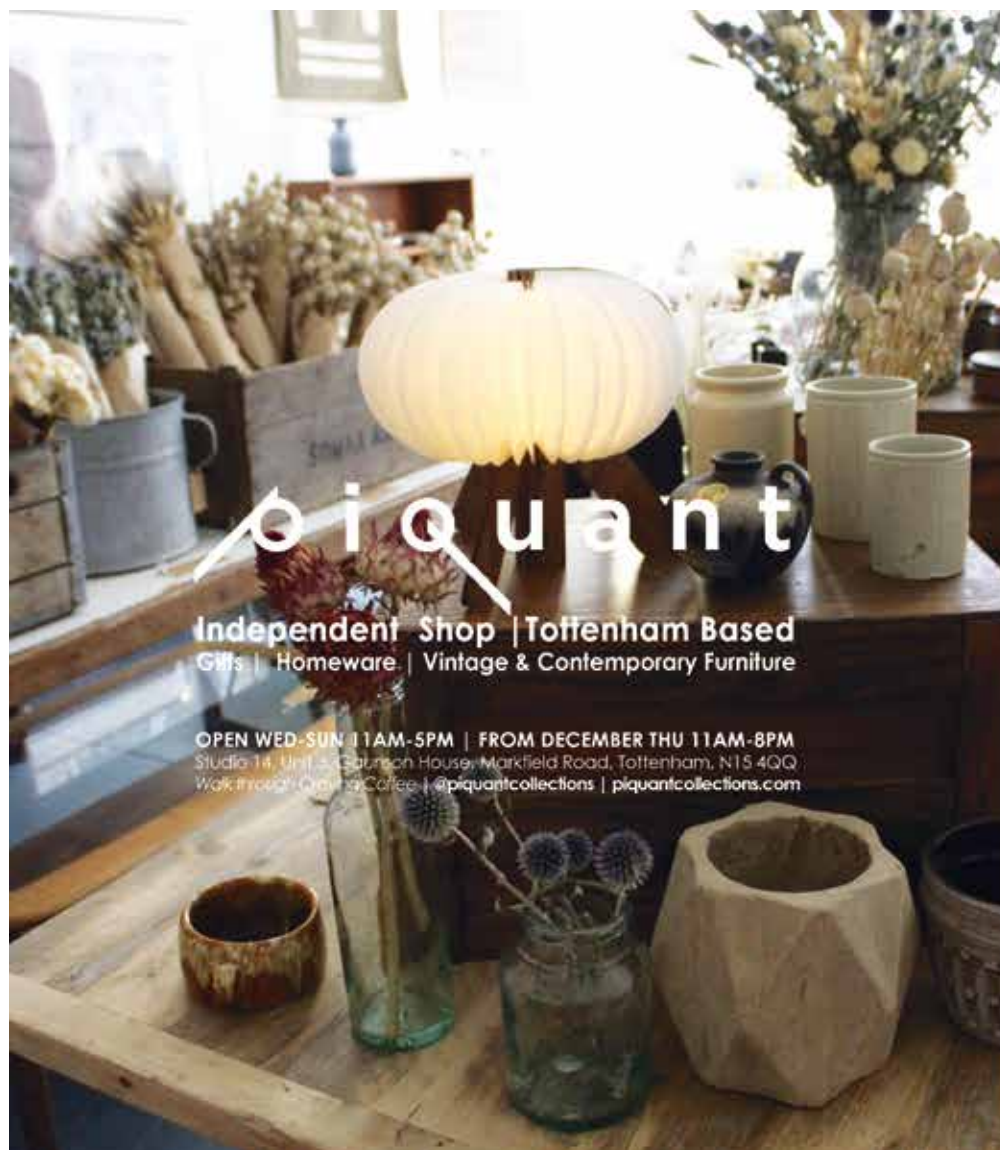
Residents know that police have never been in so much demand- this single Command Unit should make it easier for Haringey officers to give and receive support from our neighbouring Enfield officers at particularly busy times.

I also think that one associated change will be popular with residents, namely that the officer who responds to a call will now, wherever possible, take charge of that investigation from beginning to end. This is very important for victims'

continuity of service and hasn't always been the case in the old model.

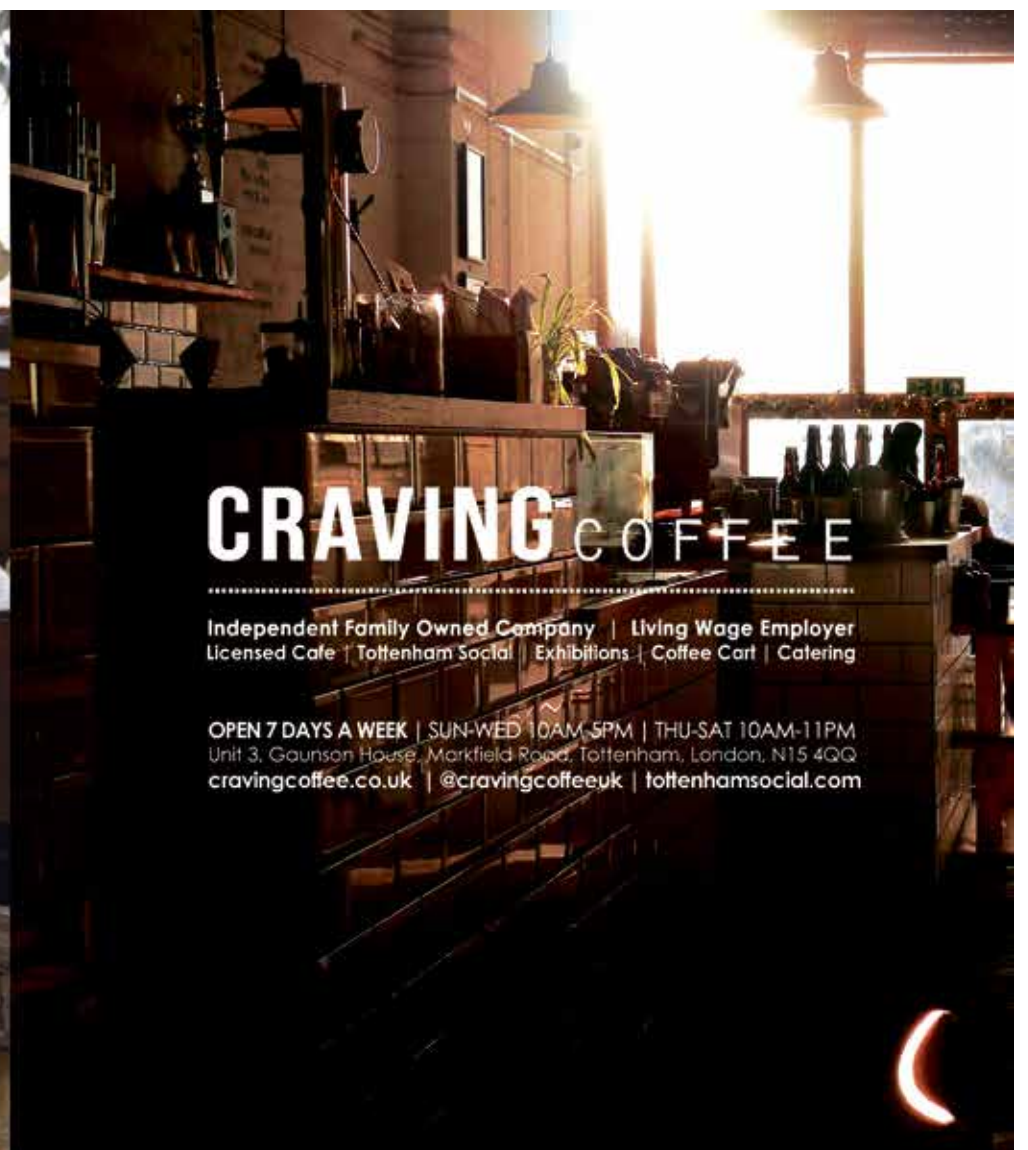
Another initiative is that the North Area BCU will be increasing the number of officers working with Haringey's schools and youth organisations as a preventative strategy against youth violence, while just one leadership team will oversee and support both boroughs ensuring a more consistent approach to tackling crime.

We will still be organised into 5 strands of work: Response; Neighbourhoods; Safeguarding; Investigation; and a Headquarters team that will support the four other areas. And, of course, Tottenham Police station will remain open 24 hours a day with absolutely no change to its important standing as Haringey's publicly accessible front counter.



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Northumberland Park station gets an upgrade

New footbridge makes train station more accessible



The newly constructed footbridge at Northumberland Park station **Credit** Network Rail

Network Rail has opened a new footbridge at Northumberland Park station as part of the £170m Lee Valley Rail Programme.

The bridge has step-free ramps in addition to stairs, and a lift is expected in the months ahead.

The footbridge is constructed over the West Anglia Main Line, which now provides an upgraded link between Northumberland Park and White Hart Lane.

The new third track at Northumberland Park, will deliver two additional trains per hour, bringing more people into London from the Lee Valley.

Network Rail says this will help to unlock sites for housing and boost the local economy for both Haringey and neighbouring borough, Enfield.

Councillor Charles Adje, Haringey Council's Cabinet Member for Strategic Regeneration, said: "It is essential that positive changes like these benefit all of our residents in Haringey. This step-free bridge means more of our residents can access the station, and as a result the rest of London and beyond. This station is a valuable link for Northumberland Park and this improved accessibility is good news for the area."

Council to help Haringey's rough sleepers

Haringey council wins rough sleeping grant bid

A rough sleeping 'crash pad' run by homelessness charity St Mungo's, will be based in Tottenham, from next year.

This comes as a bid made by Haringey Council alongside partners, St Mungo's and Homes for Haringey, was successful.

The provisional funding of £439,836 for the period 2019/2020 comes from the Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant and will go towards providing eight immediate, emergency accommodation spaces.

The centre will be staffed 24-hours per day and a range of support will be offered.

Christine Eyers, St Mungo's Regional Head for Haringey, said: "Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness and the 'crash pad' will help us support people quickly

away from the streets, especially in the cold weather."

Service users will be able to access the emergency accommodation for up to three weeks, after which, they will be offered longer term options.

Councillor Emine Ibrahim, Cabinet Member for Housing & Estate Renewal, said: "Nobody should be sleeping rough in our borough, or in London – it is an issue that we, and the rest of the capital, need to work together to tackle. This vital funding will provide urgent support for those sleeping rough, and people who are at risk of becoming homeless."

To find out more:

Visit haringey.gov.uk/news/haringey-plans-tackle-rough-sleeping-receive-major-funding-boost

Council granted social home building funds

By Alastair Ball

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan is allocating £62,858,000 to Haringey Council to build council rent homes at social rent levels.

Mayor Khan, said: "London's housing crisis is hugely complex and has been decades in the making. There is no simple fix – but council housing is the most important part of the solution. Londoners need more council homes that they can genuinely afford, and local authorities have a fundamental role to play in getting London building the homes we need for the future."

The grant is being awarded from the Building Council Homes for Londoners programme. It is

the first City Hall programme dedicated to council home building, and was established after the government announced, in October that it was lifting the borrowing cap that prevented local authorities from borrowing money to fund house building.

Haringey Council intends to use the funds to build social rent homes as well as affordable living housing in the borough.

Cllr Joseph Ejiofor, Leader of Haringey Council, said: "We are thrilled our bid has been successful."

"This vital GLA funding can help pay for 848 desperately needed affordable homes for people in Haringey – including more than 500 council homes at council rent."

He added: "Everybody deserves a safe, secure home, yet we have 9,500 people on the waiting list – this is unacceptable. There is a housing shortage across the country, and we must all work together to tackle it."

"Everybody deserves a safe, secure home, yet we have 9,500 people on the waiting list – this is unacceptable"

COMMUNITY

Priscilla Wakefield plaque unveiled

By Alastair Ball

A plaque dedicated to Tottenham philanthropist and writer Priscilla Wakefield, was revealed at an event at The High Cross United Reform Church, in October.

The unveiling marked the 220th anniversary of the founding of the Tottenham Female Benefit Club, which later became the Tottenham Savings Bank– the first of its kind in England. Today Wakefield is widely known as: “The Mother of Microfinance.” The savings bank has inspired similar schemes to alleviate poverty around the world, from Bangladesh to Kenya.

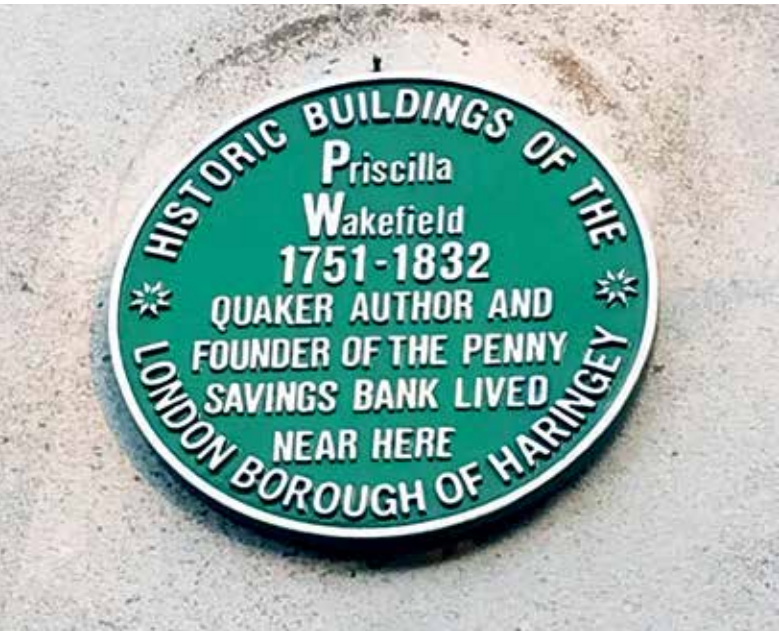
Margaret Burr, who has researched Priscilla’s life, said that Wakefield was “significant in her lifetime” as she worked for practical solutions to poverty.

Dr Susan Johnson, from the University of Bath, spoke about Wakefield and the impact her work has had, at the event. She described Wakefield’s microfinance schemes as a “silver bullet to end poverty” and added that: “Priscilla would be delighted to know the state of microfinance now.”

Wakefield wrote *Reflections on the Present Conditions of the Female Sex; with Suggestions for Its Improvement*. It was seen as the foundational text of feminist economics, and was a critique of Adam Smith’s, *The Wealth of Nations*.

At the event, Burr announced that a campaign for Wakefield to be featured on the £50 note will be launched to raise awareness of her life and work.

You can find out more about Priscilla Wakefield: Visit priscillawakefield.uk



The Priscilla Wakefield plaque Credit Alastair Ball



High Cross Church Credit Alastair Ball

A rare treat for Tottenham to remember

Martin Burrows tells us about the Concert of Remembrance, performed by the New Tottenham Singers

Last month, on the eve of the one hundredth anniversary of the Armistice of the First World War, local choir, the New Tottenham Singers mounted a moving and beautifully executed concert of Remembrance at St Ignatius Church.

The concert was the result of many hours of work and dedication over the previous year by the New Tottenham Singers and their Musical Director Tom Fowkes, and as many in the audience agreed, resulted in their best concert yet.

In the first part of the concert were short pieces by 19th Century English composers on the themes of war, death, love and peace for the future:-

- ‘Touch Her Soft Lips and Part’ – written for the film, Henry V, when the soldiers are departing for France and bidding farewell to their loves.
- ‘God So Loved The World’ by John Stainer, with a message of love, peace and hope.
- ‘If Ye Love Me’ by Philip Wilby, which is a message of comfort for the living following a death.
- ‘The Lord Is My Shepherd’ which is often sung at funerals and is recognisable as the theme Howard Goodall wrote for the Vicar of Dibley.

Lastly in this section was John Ireland’s ‘Greater Love Hath No Man’ –which with the outbreak of war in 1914, gained resonance as the casualties from the front mounted.

All these pieces led into the main piece of the evening: Howard Goodall’s *Eternal Light: A Requiem*.

Eternal Light was first produced in 2008 for the 90th anniversary of World War One.

Goodall wrote: “For me a modern requiem is one that acknowledges the unbearable emptiness that accompanies the death of loved ones, a loss that is not easily ameliorated with platitudes about the joy awaiting us in the afterlife. This is a requiem for the living, addressing their suffering and endurance, a requiem focussing on the consequences of interrupted lives.”

“*Eternal Light*” was beautifully sung by the New Tottenham Singers, with clear attention to the distinct light and shade in this piece. They were expertly accompanied by the orchestra and soloists: Hanna Birkett, Jack Roberts and Samuel Lam.

At the end the audience was visibly moved, I don’t think there was a dry eye in the church.



Tottenham Green war memorial Credit Stephen Furner

Crossword Answers

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NEWS

Opinion

Helen Swinyard recommends
some fab Christmas reads!

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LETTERS

Cycling towards better health

Dear Tottenham Community Press

There are plans for a new 8km cycle route, from Tottenham Hale to Camden Town. Provisionally called Future Route 2, it promises protected cycle tracks and quieter roads.

The investment towards improving cycling infrastructure in the capital is part of Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan's plan to have 80% of journeys in London made by bike, foot or public transport by 2041. The target for Haringey is 88%.

TfL estimates that if Londoners walked or cycled for 20 mins a day, by the time today's 10-year-olds reach 40, the improvement in their health would save £1.7bn in NHS costs.

People who are physically active every day reduce their risks of type 2 diabetes by 35-50%, coronary heart disease by 35-30% and depression by 20-30%.

With all these benefits, why aren't we all getting out of our cars?

But who wants to walk or cycle on our congested streets? If your route

to school, the shops, to work, or the library was along quieter streets with less through traffic, or along roads with wider pavements and safe cycle tracks – wouldn't we all feel more like walking or cycling?

Too many of our roads in Haringey are clogged with traffic. Giving cars priority over active travel limits everyone's access to better health.

Air quality is worse on the East of the borough where the heavy traffic aggravates air pollution, making the need for Future Route 2 even more urgent.

With safer cycle routes set to be on their way, Future Route 2 could enable someone living in Tottenham to cycle safely to work in or around Kings Cross in half an hour, saving them £1600 a year – a considerable chunk of their salary in fares, whilst also reducing poor air quality and improving health in the borough.

Angela Hobsbaum & Kate Laing
Haringey Cycling Campaign

Making waves

Tottenham swimmer reigns supreme at London Winter Championships



From left: Matteo Caravati-Pringle, Rose Pepperday, Max Green, Arun Hamilton McMahon, Gareth Davies, Shakil Giordani, Alfie Lucas, Kelton Ryland, Hayden Hoole, Max Hanson with Head coach Paul Doyle at the London Region Winter Championships Credit: Haringey Aquatics

By Eva Hanson

Haringey Aquatics swimmer, Shakil Giordani has won five gold medals at the London Region Winter Championships.

Giordani, who is 16 years old, was unbeatable in the majority of the sprint events, winning gold in 50 and 100m backstroke, 50 and

100m freestyle as well as the 50m butterfly. He also added a bronze medal to his collection by coming third in the 100m butterfly final.

Shakil's phenomenal success has earned him Top Male Swimmer in the 16 and under junior age category.

The championships were held at London Aquatics Centre as a short course (25m pool) meet, in two age

groups; junior 16 and under and senior 17 and over.

The club had a record number of qualifiers for the Winters this year, including Rose Pepperday, 17, who won silver in 1500m freestyle, Max Hanson, 15, who won silver in 100m breaststroke in the 16 and under age group and Alejandro Isaza-Ocampo, 17, who came ninth in the senior 200m backstroke final.

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PHOTOGRAPHY



Sunset over the River Lea

PHOTOGRAPHY



Tottenham Marshes

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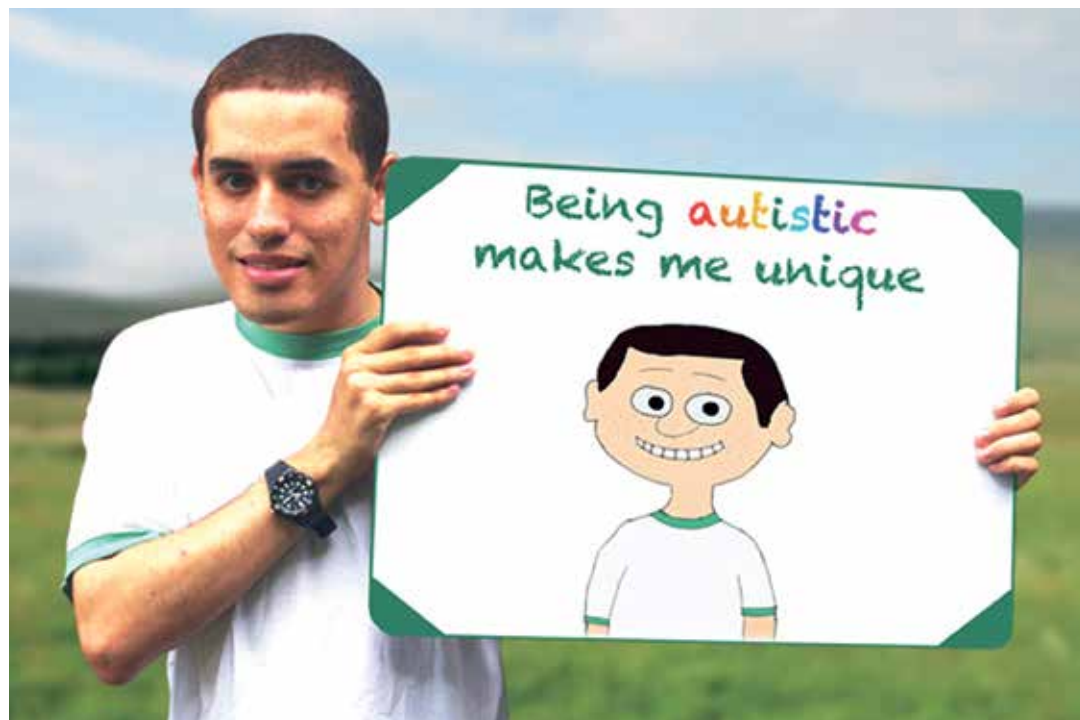
exposure

Youth communications charity

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.

Young people with autism aren't 'Undateable'

Exposure's Max Ferreira reviews the Undateables TV show and explains how autistic youngsters like himself benefit from socialising



Max Ferreira poses with the artwork he made **Credit** Exposure

When my mum told me about a TV programme called *The Undateables*, I was unsure whether I would like it or not. But after watching one episode I realised that this unique show is beneficial to people like myself to motivate us to become more sociable.

The Undateables is about how young people with learning disabilities can escape loneliness and start forming a relationship with someone for the first time or in a long while. Young people sign up to a dating agency where they are helped to meet the right person.

For example, in season six, 23-year-old Sam has Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism. Sam has been on a few dates with girls, but has never been on a second date with any of them.

Sam was introduced to Amy who also has autism. They met at a pub for a drink and a simple conversation, without rushing into becoming boyfriend and girlfriend straight away. Then they had fun at a nearby trampoline centre.

Overall Sam's date was a success and he even arranged to meet Amy again, this time going for a meal.

What I like about *The Undateables* is that it addresses how every vulnerable young person

is different from each other. But also they have the same feelings, wanting to find love and be with someone trustworthy who has charm and empathy.

According to Scope's *Independent. Confident. Connected.* report: "Connecting with friends, family and other disabled people is seen as a strong enabler of independent living, having a sense of self-worth and feeling valued."

This means when someone with a disability spends more time with young people they are familiar with, they gain confidence and experience when it comes to teamwork or social interactions.

In my experience of autism, I have struggled to make friends and fit in with other people in my school days. This is because I was worried about being bullied or doing tasks that were too difficult for me.

But now, as a young adult, I have been making the effort to be with people my age. I am currently trying to stay in contact with people I've recently met and hopefully arrange to meet up somewhere to eat or do a fun activity, like bowling.

I recommend *The Undateables* to anyone with autism and learning conditions to understand

about how people like us can be around others and start forming a relationship with someone new, with help and guidance.

For young people with special needs here are some tips about relationships and spending time with new people. They are based on my own experiences and tips from Ambitious About Autism

- Be confident and enjoy yourself
- Don't overthink or stress out about what could happen
- Learn more about the person you meet by asking questions, like what their interests are
- Show good eye contact
- Respect their needs, personal space and beliefs
- Don't make unkind comments on someone's appearance
- In a conversation stay on topic and don't interrupt the other person
- Avoid asking sensitive questions about someone's personal life, (e.g. how much they earn), until you know them better
- Don't be too generous, e.g. lending money
- Do activities that you both enjoy and are comfortable with
- When meeting someone online avoid making jokes, which can be taken the wrong way.

To find out more about autism:
Visit ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

This is What a Fake Smile Looks Like

by Brian Adams

She feels like she has to put a smile on
For her friends and family and followers
She only puts it on to hide her true feelings
She spends most of her time on her phone and tablet
They give her all that she needs
Instagram and Snapchat make her feel good when others 'like' her photos
YouTube distracts her with its music and entertainment
WhatsApp helps her keep in touch, with what's going on at school
Google gives her info, useful facts on anything and everything
Candy Crush and other games give her something else to do
Over and over and over again
She has no real time for family and friends
They invite her to go out but she says 'no'
She's scared of crime; she's scared of the crowds
And her mum and dad are scared too
Even when she does go out, she's still on her phone
She knows she has to change
She knows she's bored
She knows she's lonely
She knows she needs more time with her family.



Poet, Brian Adams (in green) with friends (l-r) Max Ferreira, Harry Pollard and Shafi Hassan
Credit Exposure

Further information

Exposure is a north London based, youth communications enterprise.
To find out more:

Visit exposure.org.uk

More information about autism can be found at:

Visit ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

Visit nhs.uk/conditions/autism

Visit autism.org.uk

Visit autismspeaks.org

Give the gift of a good book this season

With a plethora of Christmas-themed books out there in the shops, it's hard to know which ones might be good. This month, your local children's specialist librarian, Helen Swinyard, points out some good ones which may not have crossed your snow-covered (ahem, just chilly) Tottenham path

Let's start with a collection of books by the wonderful team of Matt Haig (author) & Chris Mould (illustrator). They make a great combination of Christmas-themed books, thinking about the legends surrounding Christmas such as Father Christmas. In fact, the first story was born when Matt Haig's son asked him what Father Christmas was like as a child – and his bedtime story became *A Boy Called Christmas*. He has added to this with *The Girl Who Saved Christmas*, *The Truth Pixie* and *Father Christmas and Me*, all out in time for this year's gift-giving. All the books overlap with characters, but I wouldn't say they're a series or have to be read in order. They are suitable for any age (even adults!) with witty, poignant and bonkers storylines and expressive line drawings.

If it's more beautiful illustrations you're after, then you definitely need Jan Pieńkowski's book simply titled *Christmas* (or in more recent editions *The First Christmas*), which uses the Biblical Nativity story alongside his distinctive silhouette technique, that uses cut-paper black outlines overlaid with colourful skies & glittery detail.

For younger children who are still learning to read (or need to be read to) try the minimalist *The Christmas Book* by Dick Bruna (of *Miffy* fame). This is the Biblical Nativity story in its purest form with his familiar colour block illustrations. Gorgeous. I still remember the illustrations from my childhood copy! And you can never go wrong with one from the series of board-books *That's Not My... Reindeer / Penguin / Elf / Snowman* etc.

If you have a careful child, then invest in the beautiful playbook *The Jolly Christmas Postman*. With rhyming lines, we follow the friendly postman delivering letters to different characters in the Christmas mythology, and at each delivery, the reader can open

up the letter, postcard or invitation, and read it for themselves (carefully folding it back up for next time, of course). A game, a puzzle and a story all in one.

For those who want some seasonal humour, why not try Nicholas Allan's cartoony-styled and laugh out loud *Jesus' Christmas Party* or even *Father Christmas Needs a Wee!*

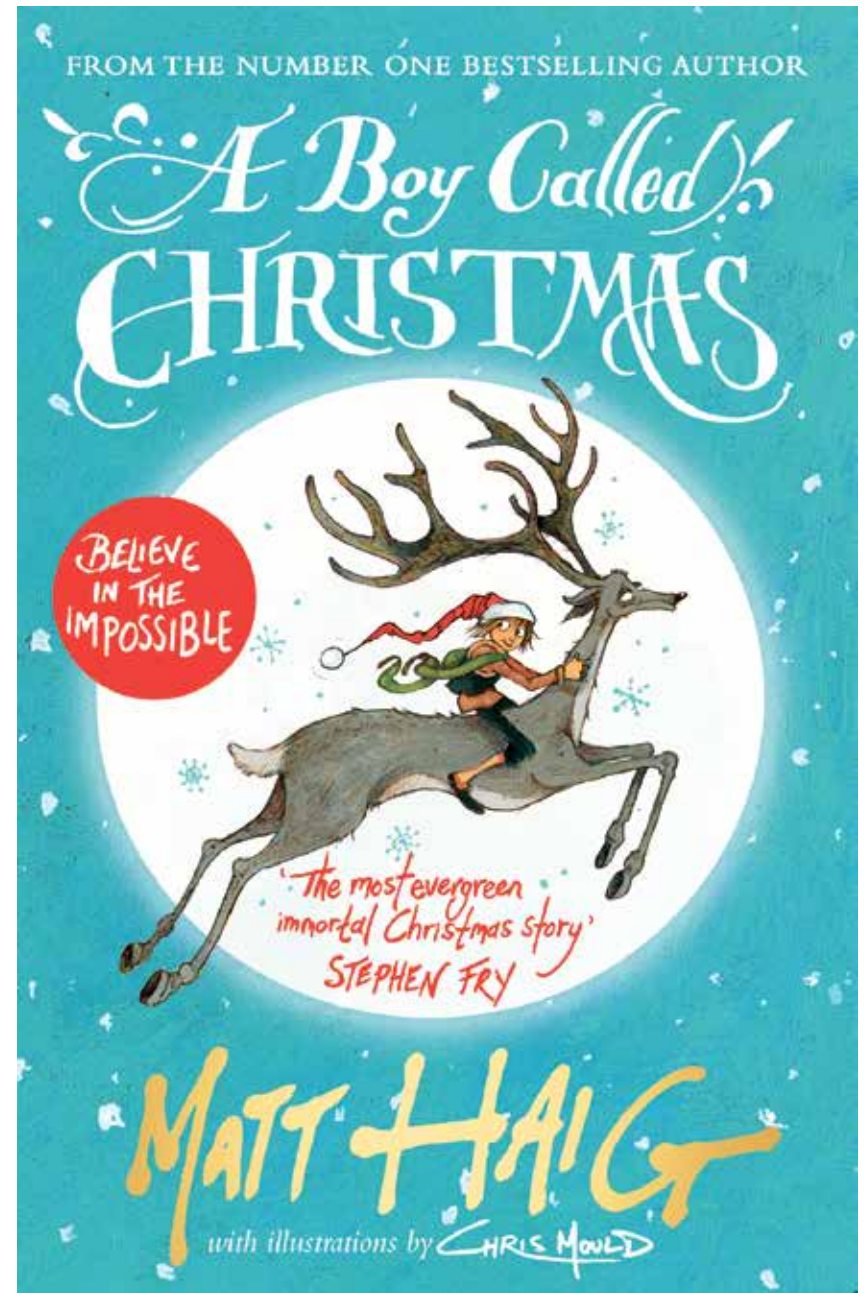
If you're trying to entice a reluctant reader, give them the graphic novel *Father Christmas* by Raymond Briggs, who also drew the wordless picture book *The Snowman* (and the *Snowdog*) which they may recognise from TV. Large pages of the comic-book format, show the grumpy and grumbly old Father Christmas through his year, doing his normal everyday things and getting ready for his one night of deliveries. There are lots of details which encourages re-reading.

An Angel Just Like Me by Mary Hoffman is a charming picture book story from the writer of *Amazing Grace*. Tyler wants to know why the angels used to decorate Christmas trees are always pink and not black and sets out on a mission to find an angel for the tree 'just like me' – with a little help from Santa, of course.

North London author & poet Michael Rosen has again teamed up with illustrator Tony Ross for *Bah! Humbug!* Children can read the modern story about a boy who is taking part in his school play version of the Dickens classic, *A Christmas Carol* and learn about the original text along the way. Will the boy's often absent father's heart melt with love at the play? – and will yours?

A Christmas Mystery by Jostein Gaarder (who wrote the phenomenon *Sophie's World*) comes translated from Norway, and has a chapter to read (unless you're feeling rebellious) for each day of Advent. The story mixes the journeys of the Biblical Nativity characters with those of the modern child narrator as we learn about the origins of the advent calendar found in a shop window. Weaving across time and place, this story is wonderfully powerful and unforgettable.

Christmas seems to conjure and create magical tales, so finally, for teenagers or confident junior-school aged children, why not try one of the classic fantasy / magic wintry tales – *The Snow Spider* by Jenny Nimmo, the *Box of Delights* by John Masefield, or of course *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis (the inspiration for last month's *The Lost Magician*).

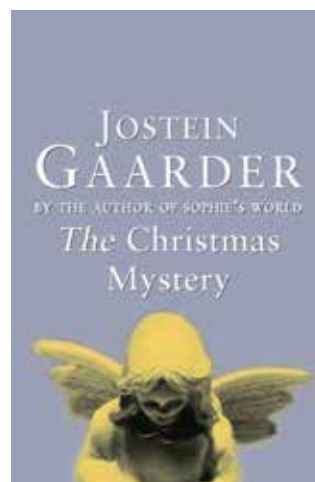


Matt Haig's, *A Boy Called Christmas* Credit matthaig.com

“...the first story was born when Matt Haig's son asked him what Father Christmas was like as a child”



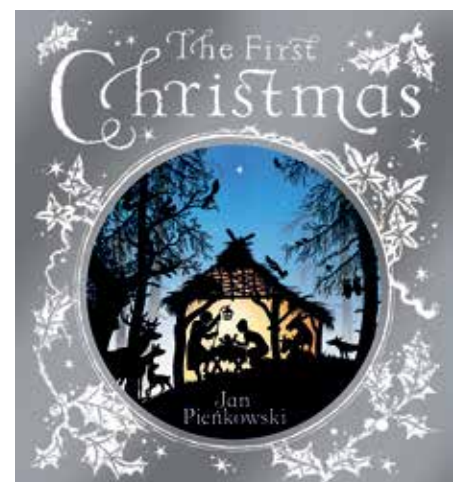
Dick Bruna's, *The Christmas Book*



Gaarder's, *The Christmas Mystery*



Michael Rosen's, *Bah! Humbug!*



Jan Pieńkowski's, *The First Christmas*

ARTS & CULTURE

The power of spoken word

By Luchia Robinson



Poet, Merlin The Wizard takes to the stage

Formed by Haylee Venus and Moussa Amine Sylla, Spoken is a grassroots organisation that brings young people and local creatives together to discuss meaningful topics, develop artistic skills and form partnerships within the community.

What are the reoccurring things that are coming up in our daily conversations?

How are local people being affected? These are just two of the questions, Spoken Co-Founders Haylee Venus and Moussa Amine Sylla address when exploring working themes to discuss, write about and perform at the events they host.

Spoken events are a platform for young people to discuss their experiences in a non-judgemental environment. By posing reflective questions, and expressing their comments towards them through poetry, the young performers are able to identify and connect with their local communities. The aim is to make the audience think.

"We don't want [our event] to be another event, anyone can host an event but we want it to be meaningful and impactful. We don't want people to leave the same way as they came in, we want their minds to be open

and for them to leave with a [wider] social perspective," says Haylee.

Moussa adds: "[When we started] we had this episode of knife crime and shootings, so we starting thinking about providing a place to start talking about why that had happened and how all those events are triggered – what are the root causes and what can we do about it? So we tend to attach themes to what's happening currently and locally."

Haylee and Moussa are not playing it safe in their mission to provoke thought and prompt positive social action, and they are now extending Spoken's local, collaborative, theme-based working model to a national level.

Through Moussa's job role as a Community Organiser, Spoken was able to make links with Ellen Moran who is a part of the Born Lippy Crew – a poetry collective from Newcastle.

The idea of creating a poetry exchange between the two groups was formed and Spoken recently invited

the Born Lippy poets to celebrate and collaborate at its one-year anniversary in Tottenham.

"The actual day of the event was interesting because it was quite cold," says Haylee. "We were thinking, 'are people going to come?' There were loads of people who had registered online, but we were anticipating what the numbers were going to be like considering the weather."

People did turn up, well over a hundred in fact, making it Spoken's most attended event to date. And the themes on that cold night? -Black history, homelessness and music as a universal language; topics that Haylee believes "may have been seen as uncomfortable in certain environments. However, Spoken made room for it."

In the lead up to the anniversary event, both the London and Newcastle collectives were able to network and further solidify their poems by recording them in the Levi's Music Studio, creating a playlist that is soon to be released.

Now, using the success of the Newcastle collaboration as a pilot, Haylee and Moussa plan to take the same framework to other cities, engaging with even more local young people and teaching them poetry writing techniques for national performances.

Moussa and Haylee are currently building a team of like-minded people



Co-Founder of Spoken, Haylee Venus leads a creative writing workshop



Ellen Moran from Newcastle's Born Lippy Crew shares her work



Spoken artwork by Kiboko

who can assist in defining a strategy that will ensure Spoken remains an initiative that rallies the local community together to offer creativity to the wider audiences.

Moussa says: "[Spoken] is not about me and Haylee. One day, I won't be here, one day Haylee won't be here, [Spoken] has to be locally rooted with people accountable, so if we're not here, it stays as a legacy – for us that's important."

At the moment, Spoken uses poetry as its main method of expression, but Haylee and Moussa are explor-

ing other forms of creativity including, painting and music. They are working on ways to provide event management training and to teach skills that formally document the events they put on, such as filming, editing and interviewing.

"We highly value and believe that culture heavily contributes to social economic development," says Moussa.

"We do [Spoken] for the young people and I hope that one day, they will be in charge; they will do it for themselves, by themselves, to empower themselves."

COMMUNITY

Tuning in

Italian radio station offers journalism training to local youth

By Rosita Pirulli

London ONE Radio in Tottenham Hale is starting a new project giving youth that are interested in journalism, the opportunity to explore the world of broadcasting.

Founded in 2014, London One Radio is the only official Italian radio station in the UK that supports emerging artists worldwide, promotes VIP concerts and spreads news that concerns Italian people settled across the UK.

Earlier this year, London One Radio became a supplier to the BBC, submitting Italian cultural content that is mostly focused on music, art and tourism.

The radio station started its broadcasting and journalism courses at the Engine Room, Hale Village, last summer, by involving young people in understanding the industry through workshops and real journalistic experiences that included writing articles, radio scripts and conducting interviews.

The new project, however, has even more content and students get the chance to produce videos and direct

their own radio shows.

London ONE Radio reaches audiences across Europe and the USA by attracting the youth; this needs to be supported now more than ever before.

The radio station is open to all communities that live in London, but particularly those from Tottenham Hale, as the station's CEO, Philip Baglini, believes these local communities should be sustained.

Mr Baglini has always aimed to connect the Italian and English communities through an official radio station. This is something that had been missing since the age of Guglielmo Marconi with the famous 'Radio Londra'.

Being part of London One Radio and taking the steps to become a real journalist, means informing listeners, spreading creativity and developing the community that surrounds us.

You can listen to London ONE Radio on londononeradio.com or by downloading the free app available on iOS or android devices.



The LondonONERadio student's group Credit Rosita Pirulli

Young leaders to represent the borough

Local youth address violent crime through dance

By Nadia El-Aabdi



A young leader centre stage Credit Nadia El-Aabdi

Not-for-profit community organisation, Leaders Community is preparing a group of Bruce Grove based dancers for their first competition; 'Boroughs United'.

The event which will take place in February next year at the Hackney Empire is hosted by, The Crib, a project that brings youth from London's 33 boroughs together to raise awareness of issues that young people can find themselves facing in their communities, such as gun and knife crime, post code wars and gang affiliation.

The first task the children had to do in preparation for the competition, was to come up with a name for their group, and they will now be known as the 'Bruce Grove New Generation'.

All of the children attend our sessions full of energy, commitment and determination, even after long days at school. The cause behind this competition has inspired them to work even harder and come together as a community group to help fight the growing issues our young people face.

10-year-old dancer, Jacob Samura said: "Dance helps me to express my feelings. When I turn on the TV all I hear about is somebody has died from a knife crime or a gang related incident. I think dance helps you to let out all your emotions in a safe and fun environment and to be a good person."

Leaders Community works with grant giving organisations and the Local Authority to support the development of local children and young people, helping to build their capacity and character so that they can succeed in the future.

We offer an environment where the youth can be surrounded by positive role models, keeping them off the streets and out of harm's way. We believe that the success of the children and young people, along with the strength of the community, go hand in hand.

If any organisations or individuals would like to support or participate with Leaders Community:

Email enquiries@leaderscommunity.org
Call 07831 224510 (Maria)

ADVICE

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We can help you in your family, immigration and public law cases. We offer expert assistance, a sound and practical approach, and competitive fees.

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☎ For immigration call Dionne on 020 8885 7979

Public Law: calling the state to account we specialise in actions against the Home Office, inquests and community care. Legal aid available.

☎ For public law call Penny on 020 8885 7924

Call us today to make an appointment.



Need some advice?

Kellie Dorrington from Citizens Advice Haringey answers your questions

I've had my Universal Credit payments reduced for missing an appointment. I don't think this is fair as I had a good reason for not being able to attend. Now I am struggling to make ends meet. What should I do?

If you think the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has made a mistake in reducing your payments, you can ask for the decision to be reconsidered.

Contact the department as soon as possible setting out why you disagree with the decision. Make sure to include the date of the decision and your personal information, including your National Insurance number.

You can ask for this reconsideration in your Universal Credit online account, using a form on the government website, in writing or over the phone. Your local Citizens

Advice can help you put this information together.

If the DWP does not change its decision you can appeal, although this could involve going to a tribunal and may take some time to be heard.

If you're struggling to make ends meet, you can apply for extra help. Ask the DWP for a hardship payment. This is usually a loan and will be deducted from future Universal Credit payments. You can apply for this payment through the Universal Credit helpline, or by asking at your local Jobcentre Plus office.

You may also be able to apply for financial help from your local council. Speak to your local Citizens Advice to see what help is available to you.

Visit citizensadvice.org.uk/local/haringey

Call 0300 330 1187

(Weekdays 10am-1pm & 2pm-4pm)

Email admin@haringeycabx.org.uk

Poets Corner

Nature's Stadium
by Terry Egan

Aerials slant up
from that road aroused into
an arena, look!
its suburban-street space-ship;
little shops await the games, uncertain...

But my pond's one too -
of rather longer standing;
its glass and metal
this basin of reflections,
tiers ripples the waterfowl have dibs on...

And I, by default,
hold season tickets to both,
dwelling between them,
neither fan, nor duck - the two.

O! These squawks in the darkness. A swoop: Gooooaaal!!!

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ENFIELD Council

LISTINGS

Upcoming

Christmas Fayre and Market
Saturday 1st December, 1pm– 5pm
The Engine Room, Eagle Heights,
Lebus Street, Hale Village N17 9FT

Visit Santa's Grotto and enter the Christmas Market raffle! Arts, crafts, carols singing and more.

Free. To book a stall (£15.00)
Email info@engineroom.org.uk
Call 07974 4321645/0208 808 5490

Tottenham Winter Festival
Sat 1st December, 12pm–6pm, Tottenham Green, Town Hall Approach Road, N15 4RY

Watch the official turning on of the Christmas tree lights, plus food, drink, music, crafts and entertainment available at this great day out!

Free. To book a stall (£15.00)
Email info@engineroom.org.uk
Call 07974 4321645 / 0208 808 5490

Christmas Activity Day
Saturday 1st December, 9.30am–3.30pm
St Mary's Church, Landsdowne Road N17 9XE

Games, fun, crafts, singing and the Christmas Story for children in school years Reception- Year 6. Please bring a packed lunch.

£5.00. To book a space contact Luke Edmonds
Call 0208 808 6644
Email lukeedmondseyouthworker@gmail.com

Dementia Café
Monday 3rd December , 12.00–3.00pm,
Antwerp Arms, 168-170 Church Road N17 8AS

A platform that provides people with dementia and their carers space to socialise, get support and advice within a relaxed and informal environment.

Free
Email manager@antwerparms.co.uk

People's World Carnival Band Christmas Fair
Saturday 8th December, 11.00am–4.00pm, 676A High Road N17 OAE

Home made gifts, mince pies, hot chocolate bar, mulled wine, activities and affordable gifts for all the family.

Free entry
Call 07710 642 0229 (Sally)

Xmas Festivities at Lordship Hub
Saturday 8th December, 1.00–4.00pm,
Lordship Hub Co-op, Higham Road N17 6NU

Santa and his wishing tree, music and singing, face painting, festive wreath making workshops and stalls. Plus special Hub Raffle!

Free. If you would like to run a stall:
Email hello@lordshiphub.org.uk

Inspiring Edge Fashion Show
Sunday 9th December, Doors open at 6.00pm. The Irish Centre, Pretoria Road N17 8DX

Aspiring creatives showcase their talents. An evening with industry professionals, networking, great music, food and ambience.

For tickets:
Visit inspiringedge2k18.eventbrite.co.uk
Call 07535 923 074 / 07984 529 813

People's World Annual Winter Parade
Saturday 15th December, 3.00pm–7.00pm (Parade starts from 3.30pm), 676A High Road N17 OAE

Soca Santa is back! Music and light show parade through Tottenham. Santa will be giving free gifts to local children. You must register to participate.

Free. For more information or to register contact Sally Sturgeon on:
Call 07710 642 029

Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 18th December, 7:30pm–10:30pm, The Antwerp Arms, 168-170 Church Rd N17 8AS

Carols with the New Tottenham Singers, mince pies and mulled wine.

Free
Call 020 8216 9289

Ongoing

Tottenham Green Market
Every Sunday, 11.00am–4.00pm
(The last Market of the year is Sunday 23rd December), Tottenham Green Market, Town Hall Approach N15 4RY

An abundance of delicious food available at your local, weekly market.

Free
Call 07866 122326

Bollywood dance class
Every Saturday, 3.00pm–4.00pm
The Engine Room, Unit A, Eagle Heights, Lebus St N17 9FU

Bollywood dance class fused with traditional and modern dance styles including Indian classical fusion, folk, Bhangra and more!

£6.00
To register:
Call 07984 137 345
Email enquiry.dwp@gmail.com

Knit and natter
Every Wednesday afternoon, from 2.00pm, T on the Green, Bruce Castle Park, Lordship Ln N17 8NJ

Come and have a knit and natter with friends.

Free
Email tonthegreen@mail.com
Call 020 8808 5638

Back to netball
Every Wednesday, 7.00pm–8.00pm,
Tewkesbury Road Open Space, The Hut, Netherton Road N15 6SE

Netball for women of all ages and stages of life who want to get fit and have fun with other local friends and neighbours. Whether you've played netball before or are new to the game– you'll fit right in!

For more details and to get involved:
Call 07809 580 892 (Barbara)

Photography Exhibition: For Keeps
Sat 7th December–Sun 23rd December, All day, Craving Coffee, Unit 3, Markfield Road N15 4QQ

The debut solo exhibition by graffiti artist Pixie. Pixie combines her background in graffiti with new painting methods to produce an unforgettable body of work.

Free
Call 020 8808 3178

Send your listings for low-cost community events taking place in Tottenham. For January listings, email the details of your event to tcp@socialspider.com by 12th December.

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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.

Rewards

By becoming a member, not only will you support our publication, but you'll also have access to these rewards:

- Home delivery of the paper each month
- Your name listed in the paper and online
- *Tottenham Community Press* tote bag
- Invites to *Tottenham Community Press* events
- Have your say on the paper's direction
- *Tottenham Community Press* pin badge

How you can help

As a not-for-profit publication we rely on the generous support of our community. We look to our readers, who recognise the value of independent journalism, to help support the continuing publication of *Tottenham Community Press*.

Visit tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/join

£3 per month upwards:

membership certificate, name in the paper and website, pin badge

£5 per month upwards:

home delivery, tote bag, membership certificate, name in the paper and website, pin badge

CROSSWORD

Across Clues

1

Cheerful and jovial in seasonal celebration (7)

5

In attendance (7)

9

Compete eagerly for (3)

10

Underground fungus delicacy (7)

11

Fixed charges or taxes (7)

12

Less risky (5)

15

Attempt (3)

17

Bulky or muscly (5)

21

Concern and interest in one's local area and people (9,6)

25

Seasonal choral songs (9,6)

30

To direct (5)

33

Dined (3)

35

Take pleasure in an activity (5)

38

Fools (7)

39

Sudden urge to act (7)

40

Set alight (3)

41

Small gap to breathe through (7)

42

Spread apart (as arms and legs) (7)

Down Clues

1

Destinies (5)

2

Scrape the surface of a shoe (5)

3

To deduce (5)

4

Planned public or social occasion (5)

5

Trivial (5)

6

Soil (5)

7

(Of a face) small and delicate (5)

8

Flavoursome (5)

13

Fuss (3)

14

Type of tree (3)

16

To take back (something said) (7)

18

Place of higher education (3)

19

Exotic ornamental fish (3)

20

Make a garment with wool (4)

22

To spoil (3)

23

Foot covering (4)

24

Short for popular Brazilian city (3)

26

Strike (3)

27

Frozen water (3)

28

Managed a business (3)

29

A sign of the Zodiac (3)

30

Seasonal sleigh driver (5)

31

Come in (5)

32

Thick-skinned wild animal with horns (5)

33

Passage between rows of seats (5)

34

Gives out (5)

35

To force out of an organisation or body (5)

36

Happy and cheerful (5)

37

Give way to pressure (5)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
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by Ajayess