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# TOTTENHAM COMMUNITY PRESS

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Local news that matters to you

## Battling market forces

Latin Village traders will get fair deal says Cllr Joseph Ejiofor



Cllr Joseph Ejiofor,  
Leader of Haringey Council  
Credit: Luchia Robinson

By Luchia Robinson

Six months into his leadership and Cllr Joseph Ejiofor is continuing to work on building trust within the community.

This is proving challenging, particularly as the administration's position on Wards Corner has been an area of contention between the council and locals.

Regeneration plans for the site has

meant the Latin Village market based there, faces closure. Numerous locals have opposed the market's demolition, as it is seen as a key cultural and social hub for traders and many other people within the Latin community.

Talking about the issue in an interview with TCP to mark six months in office, Cllr Ejiofor said: "The council has a number of legally binding commitments [to work] with the developer on the scheme. There is a

Section 106 agreement which is in place between the developers, the market traders, the council and TFL (as one of the land owners), which expresses what we all expect to see at the outcome – and that is a sustainable Latin Village market, where the traders have the same footprint as they have now in the new development. The issue there remains [is] how we ensure that everybody works together to get to the ultimate

outcome? It is important that we are realistic about what is achievable."

He added: "The Latin Village market is a valued asset, not just for the people of Tottenham, not just for the people of Haringey, but for the Latin American community in north London and beyond. And we want to make that work. It is our duty to make that work."

A letter sent to Labour party members, published on social media confirms this position on the Latin

Village. It states: "We have been asked the question of why we cannot just tear up these agreements that we have signed. Were we to attempt to retain the market in its current form, extracting the council from this project would face the prospect of the council having to pay many millions in compensation to the developer."

***"The Latin Village market is a valued asset"***

Considering the budget cuts imposed by central government, this is simply neither feasible nor practical.'

The council's claim to have its hands tied may not come as a surprise, particularly with rumours swirling that the borough is being sued by property developer, Lendlease, following the decision made in July, not to pursue the Haringey Development Vehicle.

The plan to continue working with Grainger plc – the developer in charge of the Wards Corner may make it harder for Cllr Ejiofor to develop trust within the local community.

Cllr Ejiofor said: "It's important to ensure that we can help local people and local businesses thrive within whatever regeneration that happens in Tottenham. One of the things that I've frequently said is that regeneration isn't just about shiny, new buildings – it must encompass social and economic renewal, and whenever we do anything in and

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## HISTORY

STEADFAST  
IN  
DIFFICULTIES

NOV 2018 – N°. 16

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.

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*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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## 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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**Continued from Page-1**

around Haringey, the people who were there before any regeneration/ redevelopment happened, must be there afterwards because they're an integral part of that neighbourhood's future."

Overall the Council leader describes his first six months in charge as being, "very challenging". Nevertheless, he says he will be working closely with residents to ensure the council's core priorities are met.

Delivering houses for residents has been named as one of the council's key tasks and, as having made the decision to stop the HDV, the administration is now working on building and developing its own property.

Cllr Ejiofor said: "We have a duty to house [those in temporary accommodation] however, we have no housing to put them in. Part of our objective is to create 1000 new council homes, which will take 1000 people off our waiting list, which will then take 1000 people out of temporary accommodation."

Cllr Ejiofor hopes to encourage a


broad conversation with local residents through the Fairness Commission and a public consultation on the Borough Plan 2019- 2023 (See page 4). He expects this collective approach to tackling Haringey's key issues will be an effective way of ensuring trust, through open communication and ongoing engagement.

He said: "I've always sought to be clear about what it is I've thought I can do, what it is I believe I can deliver, and I wouldn't be asking people to come and talk to us if I didn't want to hear what they [have to say] and we weren't committed to helping [with] their concerns."

In addressing widespread apprehension about housing, litter and preparedness for Brexit, Cllr Ejiofor said: "All I'm asking is the opportunity to prove that this council is different, we do listen, but we have to take some difficult decisions. There are some decisions that we've got to take around the budget that are not going to be easy, [and] we have a finite amount of money, but I want residents to have confidence in us- these are things that we will address fairly."

### Community Conversations: Housing in Tottenham

TCP presents the first in their new series of events, Community Conversations, in partnership with the George Padmore Institute



The topic of housing is a big one in Tottenham. So much can be said about wanting to feel safe and secure in the place you call home. We want to invite members of the Tottenham community to come and have those conversations with us in a friendly and informal environment.

As part of the event we will invite you to compare and contrast a range of archival materials, that will underpin friendly conversations about housing in the local area. The archive material will be contributed by the George Padmore Institute and will relate to issues of housing in Tottenham and wider London.

There will be invited speakers, but the main focus of the event will be on giving you the chance to talk about your feelings. This event will be the first of a series of Community Conversations, exploring hot topics which local people feel passionate about!

This event will be taking place at the end of November. To be updated with details of the event follow us on Twitter (@tottenhamcp) or email us at tcp@socialspider.com

Come see the George Padmore Institute's amazing archive material and share your thoughts on housing, then and now. The George Padmore Institute is an archive, educational resource and research centre housing materials relating to the black community of Caribbean, African and Asian descent in Britain and continental Europe.



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## NEWS

# North Mid board says 'no' to hospital merger

North Middlesex University Hospital will not become a member of the Royal Free London group



North Middlesex University Hospital Credit: Stephen Furner

By Alastair Ball

The board of North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust have voted not to pursue a closer relationship with the Royal Free London group.

The unanimous decision was made last month, following an "engagement programme" involving staff, Haringey and Enfield councils, clinical commissioning groups, patient groups, the local community and other stakeholders.

Although the board reconfirmed the Trust's commitment to continue as a partner of the Royal Free London group, Trust Chair Dusty Amroliwala said: "What we consistently heard is that... they [the stakeholders] do not want us to move into full membership of the Royal Free London group."

The decision was greeted positively by community representatives. Healthwatch Haringey Chair, Sharon Grant, said: "This is a good decision. The North Mid should stay as a local hospital, meeting the needs of our community at the heart of a local health and care network."

The board began to explore becoming a

full member of the Royal Free London group in March 2018. In April 2018, work began on a "case for change," which looked at the evidence for and against full membership and included the engagement programme.

Full membership was suggested to address a range of issues facing the hospital and the area it serves, including increasing population, high rates of long-term conditions, the diversity of deprivation across the catchment area, and staff recruitment and retention problems. A series of public and staff events have taken place since then, ultimately resulting in the board's decision not to seek a merger.

North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust Chief Executive Maria Kane said: "Although full membership is no longer on the table, I am delighted that the North Mid Board today reiterated its continued commitment to a strong and productive clinical partnership with the Royal Free London group."

She added that: "We aim to develop this partnership so it delivers significant benefits for our local population, with clinicians working together to reduce unwarranted variation of clinical outcomes and share best practice."

## Your Haringey, your say

Residents to consult on new borough plans

Haringey council has launched its vision for the future of the borough, and residents will play an integral part in its consultation. The Borough Plan 2019 to 2023 covers key priority areas including, safe and secure housing; strong communities; cleaner environments; a growing economy and an engaged and responsive council.

The plan outlines the council's ambition to work better with residents, businesses and the voluntary and community sector by being responsive to change, more democratically accountable and clearer in its communication.

The Borough Plan addresses the cabinet's commitment to tackle inequalities in the borough through equality pledges and objectives. Statements of contribution from the borough's key partners and an assurance from the council that it will spend public money in a way that retains more wealth within the borough, are also included. Leader of Haringey Council, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor, said: "Haringey is our home and we are incredibly proud of it. Our Borough Plan reflects the political priorities of our borough's new council. It sets out the

administration's vision for creating an even better, greener, stronger and more equal Haringey. From housing and the economy, to health and the environment, we are committed to Haringey's future. With huge pressures on our budgets, we must do things differently, and we want to work with the community every step of the way. I say to all of Haringey's residents, this is your borough and we are here to listen. Make sure you have your say."

***"Haringey is our home and we are incredibly proud of it"***

A revised borough plan will inform the current development of the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2019–2023. It will be taken to Cabinet in February next year for formal adoption, following the public consultation.

The Borough Plan consultation is available in libraries and online:  
Visit [haringey.gov.uk/boroughplan](http://haringey.gov.uk/boroughplan)

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# Where is the love?

Newly formed campaign group asks: “how ‘temporary’ is temporary?”

By Luchia Robinson

A number of temporarily housed residents living on the Love Lane Estate, White Hart Lane, have formed a campaign group, TAG (Temporary Accommodation Group), which is calling for them to be permanently re-housed and for more social homes in Tottenham.

The residents were moved onto the estate following the issuing of an initial notice to demolish it in February 2015 as part of the regeneration of the Love Lane Estate.

The estate is situated between the building works taking place at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and White Hart Lane Overground station. The residents say that the uncertainty of not knowing when they will be permanently housed, combined with the ongoing noise of the construction works is having a huge impact on their physical and mental wellbeing.

“I have been in temporary accommodation on the estate for 3 years and we have received not a single conclusive answer as to what our future holds post-demolition. We have received nothing that states what will happen to us,” said Tashan Bonner, Chair of TAG, Love Lane.

He added: “We have been left to assume that we will be shunted into the private housing sector (again) or moved out of the area into yet another temporary accommodation.”

A spokeswoman from the developer's said: “Lendlease was appointed as Haringey Council's development partner for the High Road West scheme in December 2017. Since then we have been working with the council to engage with Love Lane residents and the wider community regarding the scheme.

“We are currently running two drop-in sessions a week at The Grange and send out regular newsletters on the project as it progresses.”

Haringey Council has offered all secure council tenants on the Love Lane Estate new, high-spec homes, re-housing officers to support the moving transition, home loss compensation, long tenancies, social rents and reasonable moving costs. All private tenants have been offered one-to-one advice on their options and housing needs, but TAG says that the temporary resi-

dents do not know what lies ahead for them.

Tashan said: “Each week, we are witnessing more and more temporary accommodation tenants being moved in, on the estate- surely as a council you would know what you intend to do with these households in the event of demolition?”

“There are a number of households in the hundreds that have been moved around the borough multiple times and have had to deal with the stress of this, as well as the worry that comes from not having a secure home.”

A spokeswoman for Haringey Council said: “As with the rest of London, Haringey has a desperate need for housing and we have committed to building 1,000 new council homes by 2022. Every resident deserves a safe and secure home, and we are doing all that we can in the face of huge budget cuts to provide this in our borough.

“The council has to balance the serious needs of Temporary Accommodation residents like those on Love Lane with the needs of other families on our housing list – each dealing with their own very difficult circumstances and many of whom have been waiting for many years for a secure council tenancy. We understand the uncertainty faced by residents and have committed to ensuring everyone on Love Lane is fully supported.”

The council plans to put together a ‘Landlord Offer’ – a proposal to be presented to the Greater London Authority for funds, outlining a plan for the High Road West regeneration that includes council homes at social rents, new jobs and details of a resident ballot.

The council intends to hold a residents ballot next spring to determine whether the Love Lane Estate demolition should go ahead. This is because the GLA states that Landlords seeking GLA funding for estate regeneration projects, involving the demolition of social homes, must demonstrate support from residents through a ballot.

Residents in temporary accommodation, however, are not eligible to vote in next year's ballot unless they have been on Haringey Council's housing register for at least a year, prior to the date the Landlord Offer is published.



Homes on the Love Lane Estate  
Credit Luchia Robinson



## COMMUNITY



David Lammy MP, the Mayor of Haringey and guests cut the cake at launch  
Credit Nims Obunge

## Local charity launches new headquarters

By Omar Alleyne

David Lammy MP and the Mayor of Haringey open new offices

Four years after the initial launch of charitable organisation, Hope in Tottenham (HiT) by former St Ann's Vicar, John M. Wood, MBE, HiT once again opened its doors and celebrated with the community at its new offices.

Approximately 60 members of the community took up the open invitation to attend the launch at the Enterprise Centre, 639 High Road.

An informal drinks reception preceded thought-provoking

addresses by speakers, including students, Theresa Magoba, Zariel Konado and Devante Sepaul-Craig from Heartlands High School; their themes focused on the pains of Tottenham's past while sharing vistas of hope for the future.

Visual Artist and Photographer, Agenda celebrated the tenacity of Tottenham residents, and with help from veteran Martial Arts tutor Master Franck and local business owner, Anna Jozefowicz, they cer-

tainly helped to kick off HiT's new chapter with a bang!

Sharing the same roof with so many community builders at the Enterprise Centre will greatly enhance partnering with these stalwarts to maximise the positive work we have been carrying out in Tottenham for several years.

Reflecting on the positive launch event, Director John Wood, said: "With great staff and trustees who know and love Haringey, I am very optimistic for the future."

## NEWS

### TfL proposes changes to five Tottenham bus routes

TfL has proposed a change to 34 bus routes across London.

If the changes go ahead, the frequency of the 149 and 476 will be reduced, the 67 will have a shortened route, whilst routes 76 and 341 will be restructured (more details below).

According to TfL there has been a 6% decrease in bus travel in Haringey from 2014/15–2017/18. The decline in bus usage in London over the years along with network inefficiency, slow and unreliable services and complicated travel options are purported to have prompted the proposed changes.

If actioned, the majority of alterations will take place in inner and central London and would be introduced in early 2019.

TfL insists that by taking these steps to tackle bus journey times and reliability, the London bus network would become simpler and more efficient as a result.

The proposals are subject to a public consultation that closes on Friday 9th November.

For more details:

Visit <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/buses/central-london/>

#### 149

- Increased frequency from every 8-9 minutes to every 6 minutes, Monday to Saturday daytimes
- Decreased evening and Sunday frequencies from every 8 minutes to every 10 minutes

#### 476

- Repurpose route 476 bus stands at Euston Bus Station and Kings Cross, York Way for bus route 59
- Stop bus route between Euston Bus station and King's Cross Station
- Reduced frequency from every 8 minutes to every 10 minutes, Monday to Saturday daytimes

#### 67

- Shortened route between Dalston Junction and Aldgate
- End route at Dalston Junction Bus Station

#### 76

- Re-routed via London Wall and New Change

#### 341

- Re-routed via Farringdon Road and Charterhouse Street
- 22 buses an hour
- Altered stand location from Addington Street to Waterloo Road

## A touch of magic

'Magic Table' offers fun activities to people with dementia



Lorenzo House residents play the popular ball game Credit Luchia Robinson

By Luchia Robinson

The team at supported residential housing complex, Lorenzo House introduced the interactive game system, the 'Magic Table' to the public last month on Silver Sunday - the annual day off fun events and activities for older people.

The Magic Table projects animations onto a table surface, allowing the residents to use their arms and hands to interact with the light. The games are designed to provide social, physical and mental stimulation for people with dementia, autism and learning disabilities, but they can be used by anyone wanting to engage in

some fun and relaxing challenges.

"[The table] pulls people together. We're finding that it's really building that community feel," said Helen Lambley, General Manager at Lorenzo House.

She added: "It's about interaction and developing skills that people may have lost."

Alice Williams, Dementia and activities coordinator is curious about the possibilities the magic table can open up for its users.

"The social aspect of the magic table is fantastic, but how do we develop these programmes to be more individualised? How do you direct it to people with different levels of intelligence?"

Helen Lambley hopes to open the table up to the public for a nominal fee, raising enough funds to purchase more games that will provide further fun opportunities and a fuller insight into the extent of the new technology.



Residents play games at the magic table Credit Luchia Robinson



## FEATURE

## Opinion

Why Haringey's libraries  
are vital to the community

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# What's the deal with Universal Credit?

Universal Credit has been rolled out across Haringey, but what does it mean for the people of Tottenham?



Paula Heffernan and Sylvia Long at Tottenham Job Centre **Credit** Luchia Robinson

By Luchia Robinson

In light of what is the nation's biggest reform to the benefits system, the staff at Tottenham Job Centre want to assure new claimants that they are here to assist them to make their claims and support them into employment.

By working closely with the Haringey Support Team and various other partners within the community, Paula Heffernan, Operations Manager for Haringey and Islington says that the Job Centre team are:

"Trying to look at how we can support [people with] the upskilling to meet the demands of the jobs that will be there in the future. [Our partner] the Citizens Advice Bureau see all of our customers for budgeting and digital support, but also for any other queries that they may have."

Universal Credit encourages people to get into work, supporting those who are able to do so with continued payments. However, research finds that problems tend to arise during the initial period of making a claim and waiting for the first payment to come through, which can take a minimum of 5 weeks.

According to The Trussell Trust, in areas where Universal Credit has been in place for three months or

less, the demand upon their food banks rises by 13%. This increases to a 52% rise in demand, on average, 12 months after rollout. The wait for the claimant's first payment has been pinpointed as one of the main reasons for increased referrals to the food banks.

Paula said: "Everybody who claims Universal Credit will be offered the opportunity of an advanced payment and that's usually within 5 days of making the claim. If we identify that somebody is vulnerable or may need an upfront payment to tide them over, then they can get up to 100% of what they would get at the end of the assessment period. They can have that upfront and then pay it back over a 12-month period."

Regardless of this, research has found that people who have taken upfront payments have said the repayments are often unaffordable. 79% of people currently on Universal Credit have priority debts such as rent or council tax.

The team at Tottenham Job centre are clear that claimants should not fear the change.

"We are absolutely 100% committed to making sure people get paid in full and on time, so that they can pay their rent, and that they can cope," said Paula Heffernan.

"At the moment the system is still being designed, it's still in a test and learn [stage]. It's not a finished product and therefore it is going to be a slow rollout."

The change to the benefits system may take some getting used to, for claimants and job centre staff alike. Sylvia Long, Work Services Manager at Tottenham Job Centre believes it's important to have honest and open dialogue.

She said: "Sometimes what's happening is that people are claiming, and they are hiding the fact that they've already got rent arrears. They don't want other people to know and that will just compound things. If they're honest with us and we have an engaged relationship, we can support people far better."

Paula Heffernan added: "This isn't about trying to prove anything, [it's about] making this a much better journey for our customers because most of us have lived experience of being out of work or having circumstances [change]. I can give an absolute assurance that in Tottenham, we will do our best to put the customer at the heart of what we do."

**Are you claiming Universal Credit?  
What has your experience been?  
Let us know:**

**Email** tcp@socialspider.com

## Universal Credit: In brief

by Kellie Dorrington, Citizens Advice Haringey

Universal Credit is a benefit replacing six other benefits. Initially, only those making a new claim or who have a change in circumstances will be expected to move onto Universal Credit.

Universal Credit includes a housing element to cover rent. However, some tenancies, such as temporary accommodation, still need to claim Housing Benefit separately.

You will wait at least 5 weeks for first payment, it's paid monthly in arrears, so you may need to get help with budgeting – your local Jobcentre can make a referral for help with budgeting with Citizens Advice Haringey.

You will need to claim at the local council for Council Tax reduction. Claims are online as standard, although if you have real difficulties, help can be given for you to make your claim.

**Before making an application, claimants will need to have:**

- an email address,
- mobile number
- postcode
- national insurance number
- bank or similar account details
- accommodation details
- details of savings
- income details
- details of childcare costs
- child benefit reference numbers
- photo ID (e.g. driving licence or passport)
- details of any other benefits

Claimants should be of working age, over 18 and under pension credit age and cannot be in full time education. Universal Credit is means tested, so claimants can't have savings of over £16,000.



Job Centre Plus, Tottenham High Road **Credit** Luchia Robinson



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# PHOTOGRAPHY

## Tottenham's 'Front Gardens': Linguistic Self-deceptions, Imaginary Landscapes and Urban Constructions

Let's name things shall we! Humans constantly play with make-beliefs to ideate imageries of love/hate. In this project we explore how we deal with nature and these quirky mind games after we've replaced habitats with bricks, roads and power cables whilst still maintaining this long-distance love/hate relationship. Here in each work a conception of Tottenham's 'front garden' is introduced. Viewers can travel from the comfort of linguistics into the asperity of urban realities.

### Photograph by Master Jonjon

Master Jonjon is an urban photographer, novelist and playwright, drama educator, actor, pianist and keyboardist, mathematics and computer teacher, calligrapher, director of photography, innovation consultant and sociologist. He is currently the webmaster of Blog:Ditdun and YamphotographY. He resides in London.



The Front Garden of Tottenham as you Enter from the City after Passing through Pubs, Cafes and a Parish



No Gardens but this is how Members of Mammalia Treat Bags



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## YOUTH

# Find yourself under the spell of Piers' pen!

This month we feature the new book from local author Piers Torday called *The Lost Magician*



Piers Torday, author of *The Lost Magician* Credit James Betts

By Helen Swinyard

If you or your child have read any of the Narnia series, then you're in for an extra special treat. Piers Torday has taken the narrative from *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, to inspire *The Lost Magician*.

Piers says that he often gets asked what his favourite book was, as a child and this was one he always remembers fondly. He says in the introduction: "The wonder of it filled my dreams... The book's magic lay not just in the plot, but in how it magically expanded my imagination."

*The Lost Magician* is full of lovely references and nods to the Narnia story. Without copying it, Piers has created something new and yet familiar. Set in 1945, it feels like a classic children's adventure story, with a group of siblings on a journey, getting

caught up with magical races on a quest, and absent adults leaving them to their own devices. It is also very modern with very relevant themes about division and race, war, freedom, refugees, hope, truth and friendship.

Piers describes *The Lost Magician* as "A story set in the past that might help the young readers of today prepare

it a go yourself- it's a cracking story and you will also feel smug when you notice any 'Easter egg' references to the original! A lovely gift for someone if they celebrate Christmas, too. It's perfect for children, with no inappropriate language and lots of big ideas.

*The Lost Magician* stands alone as a great book- and hopefully it may even inspire some children to go and read the books by CS Lewis afterwards.

Piers' stage version of another children's classic, *The Box of Delights* (book by John Masefield)

is on at Wilton's Music Hall from Friday 30th November- Saturday 5th January 2019 and it's one for all the family. I also recommend Piers' previous book *The Last Wild*, which was very popular with local children when shortlisted for the Haringey Children's Book Award a few years ago.

**"The wonder of it filled my dreams... The book's magic lay not just in the plot, but in how it magically expanded my imagination"**

for the challenges of tomorrow."

It would be a great book to read with younger children at bedtime, or for independent junior or secondary school students. As an adult, it captivated me and I devoured it quickly. Reading it transported me back to my childhood. If you loved Narnia as a child, give



Credit pierstorday.co.uk/books

## Piers Torday's favourite things about Tottenham:

- I like to walk our dog Huxley in Tottenham Marshes
- My first Christmas in London ever was spent there at my mother-in-law's home, and it snowed and was magical
- My husband and I love Tottenham so much we even like to eat the delicious cheese made there, from Wilde's Cheeses
- And of course, the libraries, like the Marcus Garvey Library...

## Get involved

Helen Swinyard will be reviewing some great Christmas themed books next month!

What books do you like to read? Do you have any recommendations? TCP wants your contributions- let us know if you have any book theme ideas or reviews you would like to share.

Email [tottenhamcpreads@gmail.com](mailto:tottenhamcpreads@gmail.com)



OPINION

Read all about it

Amy Bush tells us why Tottenham’s libraries are as relevant and essential as ever



Coombes Croft Library Credit Luchia Robinson

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ENFIELD Council

Public libraries have long been at the heart of the community and Haringey residents have access to nine of them, three of which are in Tottenham: St Ann’s, Coombes Croft and the Marcus Garvey Centre.

Today’s public library is a place of education, support and discovery. Haringey Libraries state: “Our aim is to encourage learning, improve employment prospects, promote social inclusion and improve the quality of life for people who live, work and study in Haringey.”

Eleni Markou, librarian and team leader at Coombes Croft has been working for Haringey Libraries for 29 years. She sees the library as an essential hub, a unique place serving local residents from birth through to old age: “It’s an important open space that is key to making a community. Whatever social group you’re in, you can come and have access to PCs, books, toys. You have access to people and to space. You can bring your children and you don’t have to spend any money.”

The children’s libraries are excellent places to play, read and explore; free kits from Bookstart are available for babies and regular events include story-times and homework clubs. A dedicated space for young people is also being developed at the Marcus Garvey Centre offering PC access,

film screenings and workshops. Programmes such as Connected Communities and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) are available to migrants new to Tottenham, enabling them to participate more fully.

Events and groups are numerous and they are a melting pot of the community. Women from many cultures and ages share stories and skills in knitting and crochet groups whilst children join in and learn from older community members as part of an intergenerational project organized by the library, during the school holidays.

Most events are run by using external funding and library staff work hard to create partnerships with local charities and organizations to deliver diverse programmes.

Exercise classes are free and open to all, allowing people to try new activities they may not usually be able to afford, such as tai chi, yoga and line dancing. Loneliness is well documented as being a cause of poor mental health and libraries play a role in tackling these issues.

The people of Tottenham head to the library for many reasons. Some borrow books, others seek help filling in forms or accessing information, there are the line dancers and the knitters, and then there are those who just want to sit and read the paper in a safe, warm and reliable place.

Crossword Answers

T	H	G	I	N	T	R	O	E	T	T
E	N	O	E	S	E	L	I	T	S	
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## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

# Tottex: materials and mentorship



Model JAMZ models items from the Tottex range **Credit** Marc Sethi

***‘Do, teach, learn, repeat’ is the maxim of Tottenham Textiles (Tottex), a technical sportswear studio split between developing projects with big brands like Nike to giving local fashion designers a leg up. Jim Ottewill finds out how they’re bringing these two worlds together...***

**"F**ashion can be very closed. There are great people in the industry but a lot of bullshit comes with it," says Tottenham Textiles' Luis Lopez-Smith.

"That's why we launched our in-house brand, Tottex," he continues. "To design and make clothes in the area and support local talent who might not otherwise have the chance to get involved."

Tottenham Textiles was borne from Luis' years of fashion experi-

ences and a perceived lack of studios offering exciting sportswear styles more technical than mere tops and t-shirts. Alongside the anarchic Sports Banger brand, he's doing much from their Seven Sisters studio to show fashion is about more than catwalks and unobtainable lifestyles. What initially drew him to the area?

"Making Tottenham my base is that classic tale of creatives needing cheap space. I moved here five years ago for work and ended up falling in love with the place," Luis says.

For Luis, not only does Tottenham offer him a space to creatively breathe away from the hipster claustrophobia of Dalston or Hackney Wick, but something more optimistic about how communities can work together and grow.

"I like the people, the energy, the character and the resilience they show here," he states. "Most people associate Tottenham with the riots or the football club – both can have negative connotations, but the reality is different: it's an energetic, beautiful place to live."

With money and investment coming to the area, change is a constant as the arms of gentrification stretch further out from London's centre to explore new territories. For Luis, this brings pros and cons...

"It's hard to see some businesses come in to just lean on the local culture to make money," he explains.

"At the same time, when we moved in to our workshop, we constantly had people coming in from the estate over the road saying how much they liked us being there. Previously it was a derelict building where all sorts of dodgy stuff happened."

Ultimately, Luis believes there are plenty of community minded people in Tottenham who really care about the future of the area. It's this aspirational spirit that embodies the mentoring side of Tottenham Textiles, balancing a sense of altruism with first-hand experience of how the competitive fashion world can be. Offered ad-hoc to aspiring

designers, printers and graphic heads, it's rooted in Luis' previous experience as a visiting university lecturer.

"I get a real buzz out of it," he says. "In its simplest sense, it can just be a conversation. It's about those people who haven't had the opportunities or support they might have needed for whatever reasons and when they decide to do something positive and embrace something new, it's being there to support them."

With the biggest summer of football in living memory now gone, unsurprisingly Luis and his burgeoning brand have had a busy year with more kits and lines coming as well as costume design for a film and a Just Jam collaboration in the wings. For those wanting to work in this world, what does he advise?

"You've got to get out there and figure out what part you want to play, and then own that," Luis says.

"There are so many roles and parts played in the process of getting clothes from idea to customer.

"You might not know you want to be a seamstress until you enter the studio and meet one.

"It's like being an NBA basketballer. You don't just pick up a ball and get on the court. You've got to put the hours in, figure out your game, refine it, learn from mistakes... and keep going."

**You can check out Tottex here:**

**Visit** [tottex.co.uk](http://tottex.co.uk)

**Instagram** @tottenhamtextiles



Tottex sportswear worn by Jasmine O'Brien **Credit** Marc Sethi



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## FICTION

# The Lilywhite Jersey: part four

In the final part the short story from Andreas Koumi, Jermain learns a lot outside of the classroom

After hospital treatment to relieve pain and manage symptoms, Priyantha was returning on the bus.

Drowsy from drugs, he rested his head against the window, each breath rebounding gently against his nose and cheek. All at once, he was roused from slumber by an angry and oddly familiar young voice. And loud too!

“Just let me on, will you? I forgot my Oyster.” It was Jermain. The driver was having none of it.

“I don’t have a bank card! I’m 15!”

“Well you should be in school then, not riding the bus!” admonished the driver. Jermain sucked air through his teeth.

“It’s OK, driver,” called Priyantha, rising slowly from his chair and fumbling in his wallet for a debit card. “Please, let him on. I’ll pay.”

Jermain recognised the elderly gentleman and frowned. No doubt news of this episode would get back to Mrs Gordon. In his efforts to reach the front of the bus Priyantha stumbled over his walking stick. The agile youth leapt across to break Priyantha’s fall in a move goalkeeper Pat Jennings would have been proud of.

Jermain then gestured to Priyantha to put his card away. “Kids travel free,” the boy declared, addressing the driver, before bending down to retrieve the elderly gentleman’s stick.

“Just remember your Oyster next time,” instructed the driver. Priyantha nodded on Jermain’s behalf as the youth guided him back to his seat, before settling next to him. Each thanked the other for their good deed as the bus resumed its journey.

“So why aren’t you in school?”

“Don’t you start, I had other stuff to do, innit? Besides, school’s pointless. I’ve missed too many lessons. I missed the end of your story.”

“I noticed. But I seem to recall you thought my story was pointless too.”

“Well, I’m not going to beg, if that’s what you’re after,” said Jermain.

Priyantha nodded and started telling Jermain what he’d already shared with the rest of the class. The story lasted longer than the bus ride so, to reach the ending, Jermain had to accompany Priyantha to the nursing home.

“I thought you lived next door to Mrs Gordon.”

“My health’s not so good at the moment, Jermain. They’re taking care of me here till it passes.”

Jermain nodded somberly. “My mum cleans here. And at the crematorium too.”

On entering, both Priyantha and Jermain nodded recognition at the receptionist, before the elder beckoned the youth to his room. “I’ve got something I think you’d like to see,” said Priyantha.

Settling in the only chair Priyantha pointed to a brown paper bag under the bed. The youth reached down for the bag before passing it to Priyantha who revealed its contents: a white football jersey.

He handed it to Jermain whose eyes widened. He noticed, pinned underneath the navy blue cockerel, an eight-pointed red and black star.

“What’s this?”

“It belonged to Valerie’s father. It’s a Quaker symbol.”

“So what are Quakers?”

“They’re a religious community. Quite a few settled in Tottenham in the 1700s.

They’ve had a big influence, setting up a number of schools locally.”

“So what do they believe in?”

“That there’s God in everyone, that we must put faith into action to build a better world. They stand up against inequality and injustice, speaking truth to power.”

Jermain nodded. “So, that’s why your wife did what she did, sorting out that racist.”

Priyantha smiled proudly and nodded.

“You know, my dad was a Spurs fan,” said Jermain. “He couldn’t

afford to go much. But he took me once, for my birthday. A crap Europa League game on a wet and windy Thursday night.”

“He was a fan? Has he stopped?”

Jermain shrugged. “I don’t know. I don’t see him anymore. After our flat got burnt down, he couldn’t deal with all the stress. My parents split up and he pissed off to Jamaica.”

“Don’t you keep in touch?”

“What for? He left my mum to bring me up alone. She’s doing one cleaning job after another to make ends meet. He tries to contact me, but I’m not interested. He’s a loser.”

“Winning isn’t everything, Jermain,” said Priyantha.

Jermain stared at the lilywhite jersey. “Yes but wanting to win is. My dad didn’t want to.”

“He still loves you, I’m sure.”

“Well he’s got a crap way of showing it.”

Jermain handed the jersey back to Priyantha. “At least you’ve still got your memories. I lost everything in that fire.”

All at once, Priyantha’s physical ailments were eclipsed by an overwhelming sorrow. He spluttered, struggling for breath.

“You OK?” enquired the youth. “I just need to lie down.”

Jermain helped Priyantha onto the bed. Priyantha grabbed Jermain’s hand with more strength than the youth thought possible.

“The only dad I ever had lived in my imagination. The only child I ever had was turned to ashes before it was born. Please. Give your father a chance. Life is too short.”

Jermain’s eyes became marbles and he nodded. Priyantha’s eyes slowly closed.

Jermain gently eased free from Priyantha’s loosened grip. Then he took Danny Blanchflower’s jersey, replaced it inside the brown bag, and left.

There was a serene look on Priyantha’s face.

\* \* \*

As solemn Mrs Gordon was addressing a class that included Jermain. She was pleased to see his attendance had improved. They had planned a trip to the museum at Bruce Castle later, as part of the ongoing heritage project. She was gratified Jermain would be coming too.

“I have some news, everyone. About Mr Priyantha. As you know, he’s not been very well, but I can tell you he’s free from all the pain and at peace now. He passed away a few days ago quietly in his sleep. His remains are at the crematorium in Enfield, if anyone wishes to pay their respects.”

Pupils expressed their sadness, some with an intake of breath, others through murmured exchanges, still others by just sitting in respectful contemplation. Jermain, however, stood up and headed for the door.

“Jermain, where are you going?” called Mrs Gordon.

“I’ve got stuff to do, Miss,” he said, and was gone.

\* \* \*

White Hart Lane was a building site with access strictly restricted. A ten-foot, navy blue perimeter of solid wooden boards had cordoned off the whole area.

Following the final ever game, construction workers had been busy dismantling the old stands to make way for a brand new stadium.

Jermain, carrying a brown bag, walked along the perimeter until he had found what he was looking for. He waited until the entrance doors swung open to allow a truck filled with rubble and debris to exit. He took a step back, not wanting any dirt to blemish the loose fitting lilywhite jersey he was wearing. He sang under his breath.

“Oh when the Spurs, go marching in...”

“Hey, mate. You can’t come in here!” called a security guard, but Jermain slipped through anyway and sang a little louder.

“Oh when the Spurs, go marching in...”

“What are you doing?”

Jermain avoided the pursuing guard by darting in and out of the diggers, with agility Gareth Bale would have been proud of. He was now in full voice.

“I want to be in that number...”

Jermain headed to where he figured was the location of the old centre circle, and withdrew an urn from inside the brown bag.

He sprinkled the urn’s contents onto the ground, reuniting, as best he could, Priyantha with his family.

“Oh when the Spurs go marching in.”

As the hapless security guard finally grabbed hold of the youth’s shoulder, Jermain allowed himself a winning, fist pumping “yes”.

\* \* \*

The class wandered around the displays of Spurs memorabilia: old rosettes, scarves and football programmes, while Mrs Gordon exchanged heritage ideas with the curator of Bruce Castle museum.

The teacher’s joy matched her surprise when she saw Jermain appear at the main entrance. His lilywhite jersey was as big as the smile he wore with it. He took the jersey off to reveal his school uniform.

Jermain unfastened the red and black star from the jersey and glanced at it a moment before slipping it into his pocket. Then he carefully and respectfully handed the jersey to the curator.

“This belonged to Danny Blanchflower. It’s a collector’s item. An old friend wanted you to have it.”



Credit Stephen Furner



LISTINGS

Upcoming

**Zero Carbon House Open Day**  
Sunday 4th and Saturday 10th November, 10.00am–4.00pm  
The address will be given via email, to those wishing to attend

Come and see how you might make your home more comfortable and energy efficient!

**Free**  
**Tickets available from:**  
mhsgroup.org/greenopenhomes  
**Contact (Pamela Harling):**  
pjharling@hotmail.com

**Film Africa: Deltas, Back To Shore (UK Premiere)**  
Thursday 8th November, 7.00pm, Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Town Hall Approach Road, N15 4RY

Two stories of migration, whose similarities reveal the need and difficulty of finding one's place in a world that's in a state of crisis. This screening is part of Film Africa—an annual London film festival celebrating the best of African cinema from across the continent and diaspora.

**£10.00 includes buffet meal**  
**Contact** 020 8365 5450

**Haringey's Black Change Makers: Activism, Democracy, Advocacy**  
Monday 12th November, 4.00pm–8.30pm  
Place: Selby Centre, Selby Road N17 8JL

Join us as we celebrate and learn about the Black change makers from Haringey who challenged the mainstream, shaped equality and fought for justice.

**Free**  
**Visit** selbytrust.co.uk/events

**Armistice Centenary Concert of Remembrance**  
Saturday 10th November, 7.30pm  
Place: St Ignatius Catholic Church, 27 High Road N15 6ND

The New Tottenham Singers present an extraordinary free concert for the Tottenham community. A full choir, with a professional orchestra and soloists will play, beautiful, specially written music to commemorate all those people of Tottenham who died in the First World War.

**Free**  
**Tickets** concertofremembrance.eventbrite.com  
**Contact** tottenhamingers.com

Ongoing

**From The Darkroom Exhibition Launch**  
Friday 2nd November, 5.00pm–11.00pm, Craving Coffee, Unit 3, Gaunston House, Markfield Road N15 4QQ

Artist and photographer, Frances Easter Brennan presents pieces that are hand printed in the darkroom or by hand using older processes. Exhibition launched at Tottenham Social Pop Ups at Craving Coffee and runs until Sunday 2nd December.

**Free**  
**Visit** cravingcoffee.co.uk  
**Call** 0208 808 3178

**Umzimba Theatre Dance: Barefoot Infants dance**  
Fridays: 11.45am–12.30pm at Lordship Recreation Hub, Higham Road N17 6NU  
Saturdays: 9.30am–10.15am at Park View School, West Green Road N15 3QR

This African barefoot theatre dance class for toddlers, infants and their caregivers gives a space for play, movement, rhythm and song.

**Fridays (£5) / Saturdays (£6)**  
**Email** admin@umzimba.co.uk  
**Call** 07496 905 611

LETTERS

Community food growing and our own mini Kew Gardens

Dear Tottenham Community Press

There's an exciting new community space off White Hart Lane, near the New River Sports Centre and Tottenham Cemetery, where several co-operatives and community groups are now running the old council plant nursery. It's the Wolves Lane Centre—the place where we grow organic veg, run a local veg box scheme, donate lots of produce to homeless projects and offer volunteers a chance to learn gardening skills. The indoor space can be hired for meetings, events, and parties and we have a fantastic vegan-friendly chef! The historic 'palm house', created as a parks department showpiece in the 1970s, still has its exotic plants, colourful goldfish, waterfalls and terrapins—it's a relaxing place to sit in, or to take the kids for fun on a chilly autumn day. We open to visitors on Sunday afternoons and we offer a gentle, friendly experience for the older and younger gardeners who want to garden in a space that's mainly under glass, out of the rain. I've been volunteering at Wolves Lane for ten months now, helping to restore the palm house after a bad winter with

broken down heating, and I've just fallen in love with this place. The café/meeting space has so much potential for community life and events – something we badly need more of in Haringey with its shortage of community centres. We would love to see schools come to us for nature study visits and to learn about gardening, but we need to raise funds. Our first priority is to install solar power and insulation to make sure both tropical plants and visitors stay warm through the winter. We are asking people to help with our crowdfunding campaign which runs till December 10th. It's the first stage in a plan to get the site running entirely on renewable energy, contributing to carbon saving and providing an ecological model for horticulture and park-keepers everywhere. Come and see us!

**Anne Gray**  
Volunteer at Wolves Lane Centre  
  
**For more details:**  
**Visit** wolveslane.org  
**Visit** spacehive.com/wolveslanepalmhouse

Love's Vanishing Point  
by Terry Egan

I love the broad, flat parapets  
spreading themselves lavishly, if meaninglessly now,  
above that row of shops in these demoded colours –  
dingy saffron, singed ochre, cream...  
  
The faint shadow they cast recalls  
some scurried-to refuge from the overwhelming sun –  
somewhere where a gritty skiddiness of sand is near,  
and where there's that endless lapping...  
  
If I hadn't seen the seaside,  
with its streets sloping into a wet intimacy,  
little here would convey to me  
the seagull's soaring, nor the loitering of the clouds:  
Ah! But there are these parapets –  
how they diminish off into love's vanishing point...



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