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Tottenham's accessible art class organisation celebrates its 4th birthday Page 12

#### Thank you

The Tottenham Community Press has celebrated its one year anniversary, and we want to say a huge thank you to all involved

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# TOTTENHAM **COMMUNITY PRESS** Jan/Feb 2018 No. 8. Free

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No. 8, Free

### Local news that matters to you

## Young people called on to join police advisory group on knife crime

The community comes together to discuss how to reduce knife crime

By Ellie Rae Ward



Borough Commander Helen Milichap joins local community leaders to talk knife crime Credit Bridge Renewal Trust

aringey police is calling on young people to join a new advisory board on reducing knife crime.

Borough Commander Helen Milichap spoke about the issue of knife crime at the 2017 Haringey Community Expo on 24 November and said it was vital that the police worked with the community as a whole, including its younger members, to tackle this pressing issue.

Milichap was joined, in a panel discussion attended by members of the public, by Cllr Eugene Ayisi, Haringey Council Cabinet Member for Communities, Yvonne Lawson, founder and CEO of the Godwin Lawson Foundation and a young person from a youth organisation, who has requested to remain anonymous.

Overall, London has seen increases in knife related crime over the last 12 months, compared with the 12 months before that (+31%). This is also the case in Haringey (+28%). Knife related crime includes many different types of incident and does not always mean a knife is used to injure somebody.

Despite this overall rise, the number of injuries cause by knife related crime to people under the age of 25 in Haringey has decreased to 87 cases in the last 12 months, in comparison to 105 in the previous year.

Cllr Ayisi told the Expo: "This is one of the issues I'm most passionate about... When you talk to me about knife crime, I think about poverty, inequality and education.

"In the media, knife crime can sometimes be charactised by race and if you look nationally, where crime is prevalent, especially among young people, the lines of poverty and inequality persist.

"There are some communities that as a Council we need to work with more and there is also an onus on some community leaders and organisations to come together and provide solutions." The younger panel member who requested to remain anonymous reflected on an incident they had personally been involved in: "It was silly - all based on something very, very petty. When I hear about knife crime now, young people and stabbings, it upsets me.

"When I was in prison I saw people take their life, hang themselves... me, myself, I went through depression and mental health issues.

"Before any young person carries a knife, they should think about the consequences. How is my mum going to feel? How is my sibling

<sup>66</sup> When you talk to me about knife crime, I think about poverty and inequality **99** 

going to feel? If I stab someone, they could die, anything could happen. This is what needs to be in a young adult's mind."

Milichap told Tottenham Community Press that the police is working hard to tackle knife crime in the community. She said: "Our activity ranges from work in schools and with young people, to intelligence led operations to focus on those we know are involved in knife crime, in order to bring offenders to justice.

"What is most important, however, is that we stop these crimes from happening in the first place. This goes right back to parents, teachers and all of us who have a stake in the safety of our local community. I want any young person who becomes drawn into this kind of lifestyle to genuinely have some alternative choices and for there to be support available."

To build on the work it is currently doing, in 2018 Haringey police aims to set up an advisory board

## THANK YOU

### STEADFAST IN DIFFICULTIES

#### JAN/FEB 2018 - N°. 8

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.

Publisher David Flovd

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Contributors Andrew Johnston Clayre Bennett Haringey Citizens Advice Jamie Breur Joanna Narkwa Michael Bowden Michiel Willems Sarah Hayes Stephen Furner Taz Gray Terry Egan Tom Gray Russell Hargrave Kasia Truefitt



Tottenham Community Press The Mill, 7–11 Coppermill Lane, Walthamstow, London E17 7HA

E tcp@socialspider.com T 0208 521 7956 elcome to Issue 8 of the *Tottenham Community Press.* This is quite a milestone for us as it means we have been in print for a whole year, throughout which we have been bringing you news and updates written by and for the people of Tottenham.

To celebrate our first anniversary we launched a crowdfunding campaign and raised almost £6,000, which will help secure our future in print. We have been blown away by your generosity and are incredibly grateful for all the pledges we've received. The success of this campaign was mainly due to all of those from the community who dedicated their time and resources to supporting us.

We've put together a thank you list

below to recognise those who have helped ensure we can pay for printing and editorial costs in the months to come. The crowdfunding campaign was set up to support our main income stream, which is advertising.

I'd also like to say a special thank you to The Antwerp Arms (which is now open and serving a delicious menu!) for hosting our first birthday party, to WondRWomN and Avril Nanton for being part of our party line-up and to all those who attended in person, celebrated with us and bought raffle tickets, tote bags and calendars on the night. As a team, we firmly believe in the value of local, independent communi-

ty media. Local newspapers play a vital role in letting readers know about vital local services available in their area, they provide a platform to discuss the issues that matter most and are able to hold local decision-makers to account.

In this issue, we have a report from the Haringey Community Expo, during which important conversations were had about knife crime in Tottenham, as well as advice on where to go for help with Universal Credit applications (page 10) and on how to manage household bills (page 11).

As Editor of the paper, I am lucky enough to meet with inspiring community leaders (page 14) every week and attend some fantastic local events, such as the opening of St Francis in the Engine Room (page 4). We haven't been able cover everything we've attended in this issue unfortunately, so I also wanted to mention the brilliant play 'On the High Road' performed by local community group Tottenham Theatre, which I went to see in November. If you get the opportunity to see another performance by this group, I highly recommend you do. The brilliant cast will take you from tears of sadness to howls of laughter in minutes.

TOTTENHAM COMMUNITY PRESS

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you enjoy the issue. As always, please get in touch via the email below if you have any feedback or suggestions for the next issue. We are always on the lookout for new contributors, so please do also send me an email if you are keen to write for us, send us photos or provide us with your poetry.

Ellie Rae Ward, Editor

We have collected together the names of people and organisations who helped make our crowdfunding campaign a huge success. There are many more names of people who pledged anonymously – and no doubt we have mistakenly missed somebody off the list – but hopefully this lets you all know how grateful we are for all your support. Thank you for reading, for pledging, for celebrating with us and for being a part of this independent, local newspaper that aims to provide you with #yournewsyourway!

#### **Pledger Names**

Russell Wyatt Taz & Tom **Cheryl** Cohen Hunters Tottenham India Thorogood Jess Daggers Beyond the Goods **Donna Riddington Red Army RC** Selby Trust **Matthew Warnes** Robbie Semple Pablo Flack Hammonds Eye Practice Shehan Perera Peter Holbrook Meryn Cutler Vinaynair Amy Croome Katharine (Katie) Hill Julia Morley Anna De Mutiis **Edwin Lowther** Halls Greengrocers **Rianna Raymond-Williams** Kate Murray Hazel Sheffield The Creativity Club Stephen Gardiner Dadzoola Narendra Makanji Quentin Given Wilson Solicitors LLP Kieran Whiteside

**Rosie** Cade Haringey Unison Gary Mustard Bob Lindsay-Smith Adrian Hawkes Andrew Johnston Ashley Burrows **Stefanie Alvarez** Nina Jua Klein Mark Hanna Peter Corley **Cheryl** Cohen Simon Newell Bewoelkt Anj Ellie Clayton Marika Gauci Nicolò Wojewoda Adam Luria Cafe Lemon James Bone Ffion Jeff Schofield Mustafa Suleman Gillk Miranda Grell Nicola Braggins AJWD Jenny C Alberto Masetti Zannini Michael Schofield Paul Pickering Angela and Howard Lovell Lynda Jessopp

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## NEWS

News Opposition to HDV gathers force following councillor de-selection votes



Good for the soul: a natter over organic veg Credit Bridge Renewal Trust



The Noah's Ark Children's Hospice team chat to Expo attendees Credit Bridge Renewal Trust

made up of young people on reducing knife crime.

An advisory group of Haringey residents already exists to advise Milichap and her team on policing issues that affect the community. Milichap explained: "I talk to them often as a group, sharing things like crime data and stop and search information.

"I talk to them about the challenges we face, and we work together on priorities like improving public trust and confidence. The group is made up of people from all walks of life and backgrounds, from different parts of the borough.

"The group meets regularly and the chair is independent of the police. We also use the members of the group individually to come and be part of our response to significant incidents and to advise us on community impact. They are really helpful and make sure we know how the things we do affect our communities."

When Tottenham Community Press asked why a new advisory board, made up specifically of younger people, is needed, Milichap responded: "We think that we need more young people involved in advising the police!

"We also know that many young people won't be interested in coming to a police station for a meeting and will want to talk to us in different ways. So we want to gather a group of young people to tell us how they think we should set this up. And that is where I need TCP's help!"

If you are a young person who wants to help Haringey police get started on creating this new advisory group, please send in your details to the contacts below, who will then pass them to Haringey police.

You can also follow Haringey police on Twitter @MPSHaringey to stay up to date with news from the force. Watch out for more messages about the new advisory group in the New Year.

The panel discussion on knife crime took place at the 2017 Haringey Community Expo at Tottenham Town Hall on 24 November. Over 600 people attended the annual event, which celebrated the outstanding achievements of Haringey's Voluntary and Community Sector. Over 40 organisations exhibited their work in the main hall, letting the public know about the activities they could get involved with and signing up volunteers.

The event also featured performances and exhibitions, as well a workshop from London Sport on setting up a physical activity project.

Alongside the discussion on Community Safety Knife Crime, there was a panel on on Local Giving in Haringey and the Community Impact Awards, which recognised outstanding individuals, grassroots community groups and voluntary organisations. The prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2017 was presented to Living Under One Sun (LUOS) and Farhad Ali won the Haringey Hero (volunteer) of the year award. Rachel Hughes, chair of The Bridge Renewal Trust, which organised the Expo in partnership with Haringey Council, said: "It was pleasing to see so many people and inspiring to be part of a lively and vibrant voluntary and community sector in Haringey."

Email tcp@socialspider.com Tweet @tottenhamcp 3

If you are interested in supporting Haringey police to set up a new young people advisory group, please get in touch with the Tottenham Community Press team:

Hale to this new, purpose-build

church is to enable it to play an

even bigger role in supporting the

surrounding community. The con-

gregation holds regular, communi-

ty-focussed activities, such as the

Make Lunch project, which sees

pop up cafes appear in the local

area and aims to tackle the issue

Another initiative led by the con-

gregation is ReACT, which is a per-

forming arts workshop staged every

Spring for young people who attend

local schools, and the annual Hale

Village Summer Festival, which

brings together businesses, residents and partners from across the

community in a celebration of the

Speaking at the Grand Opening

event, David Lammy MP praised the

work of the congregation, the artists

who produced the modern artwork

on display in the church and every-

body involved in raising the funds

to make the new building a reality.

He said: "It's really, really import-

ant to support our youth and young

people, and to support their parents.

That is essential in what is the most

"This is a very, very special moment.

It [St Francis in the Engine Room]

diverse constituency in Europe.

of food poverty.

local area.

### NEWS

## Tottenham Hale celebrates opening of St Francis Church

First new purpose built church in London for 40 years opens at the Engine Room community centre in Tottenham Hale



Tottenham MP David Lammy cuts the ribbon Credit The Engine Room

t Francis at the Engine Room is the first new, purpose built Anglican church to open in London in 40 years.

On November 21st a Grand Opening was held at the new church in Tottenham Hale, attended by David Lammy MP and the Rt Revd Rob Wickham, Bishop of Edmonton, as well as members of the local community, and representatives of the partners behind the development. The internationally renowned artist Graeme Mortimer Evelyn unveiled a specially commissioned new altarpiece for St Francis at the event, which is the largest contemporary altarpiece in the UK.

The Rt Revd Rob Wickham, Bishop of Edmonton, said: "We long for human flourishing, and St Francis is our response to the liveability needs of Tottenham Hale. "At its root we see a confident series

By Andrew Johnston & Ellie Rae Ward

will be here for many, many, many decades to come."

The church is located within the also newly built, Engine Room community centre. The new Engine Room is now open for the Tottenham community and since October has hosted a huge variety of different events, from children's parties, to wedding receptions, Christmas parties, family reunions and more.

In 2018, alongside the programme of weekly activities and community events, led by Engine Room staff, there will be an opportunity for Tottenham families to make full use of the facilities, which have state of the art audio visual and meeting facilities.

The Engine Room also has a community kitchen, which is available free of charge to all who hire the venue. The Engine Room team is taking bookings for venue hire in 2018 now.

#### For more information: Visit engineroom.org.uk Call 0208 808 4590 or 07957 193922 Email andrew.johnston@

engineroom.org.uk

If you would like to receive the weekly Engine Room News email: Subscribe info@engineroom.org.uk





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## INTERVIEW



A call for action from the charity that's tidying up Tottenham



Friends of Bruce Castle Park clean up Credit CleanupUK

#### By Sarah Hayes

S leanupUK is looking for local people to help make Tottenham a cleaner, safer and more welcoming place for the whole community – by clearing up litter. The charity was created by former management consultant George Monck to help people combat local litter problems and build stronger communities.

Monck said: "Litter is much more negative and destructive than most of us imagine, but by coming together to improve the local area people feel empowered. They feel part of a friendlier community, and safer too." In the run up to the 2012 Olympic Games, the charity launched the Beautiful Boroughs Project in East London. The project flourished and is now reaching more people than ever. As the project manager at CleanupUK, and a Haringey resident, I can say first hand that The Beautiful Boroughs Project helps people make their local area nicer to live in. It's not just about rubbish, its about neighbourliness.

CleanupUK has already helped existing community clean-up groups in Tottenham, like The Friends of Bruce Castle Park, which was started by volunteers, including husband and wife Rodolfo Alvarez and Anna Müller, in 2016.

### "Litter is much more negative and destructive than most of us imagine"

Müller explained: "The park wasn't getting the love and care it deserved, so we decided to change that.

"Sarah from CleanupUk was so helpful... providing advice, all our litter picking equipment and highvis vests, as well as helping us to promote our events."

The Friends of Bruce Castle Park's monthly litter picks are now going from strength to strength, fuelled by new friendships and their own mini bake-off! After just 10 events the group had cleared an impressive 108 bags of rubbish including microwaves, mattresses and carpets – but the biggest benefit according to Müller is the social and community aspect.

One of CleanupUK's newest groups is Beautiful Bruce Grove, led by Catherine Suttle from the Bruce Grove Resident's Network.

CleanupUK helped the group to launch with a very successful litter pick in October and they'd love new people to join them for the next one! CleanupUK has also helped groups

in Carbuncle Passage, Northumberland Park and Tower Gardens – and is always keen to assist new groups.

If you care about your environment and have a local 'grot spot' you'd like to clean up, CleanupUK can help. Our role is to help people look after where they live and we'll work with you to make your ideas happen.

The Friends of Bruce Castle Park meet at 2pm at the Pavilion on the first Sunday of every month. New volunteers are always welcome.

For more information: Visit friendsofbrucecastlepark.org.uk Email beautifulbrucegrove@ gmail.com Visit facebook.com/groups/ bgrnmembers

If you'd like to talk to CleanupUK about litter picking in your area: Email sarah.hayes@cleanupuk.org.uk Call 07469 660 842 Visit cleanupuk.org.uk Tweet @Cleanup\_UK

## Two Latest Books Published by Tottenham Writer





ICEJACKED Climbers on the Tyrolean mountains discover a body frozen in a slab of ice, as the ice melts and

PERSPECTIVES

Big doors swing on little hinges – this book is the Authors perspective on important areas of life – set out in an A–Z format.

the body warms and it is found to have a pulse.

Both books are available to buy on Amazon.co.uk or the Authors web site: adrianhawkes.co.uk



### NEWS

## **Opposition to HDV gathers force following councillor de-selection votes**

Russell Hargrave reports on the latest twists and turns in Haringey Council's controversial regeneration plans



Wood Green Library Credit Stephen Furner

Dozens of Labour councillors on Haringey Council faced de-selection votes in November and December, as the row over a highly controversial housing scheme deepened.

Labour members triggered votes which forced a number of sitting councillors to fight for their right to represent the party when it goes to the polls in May 2018, as the campaign opposing the Haringey Development Vehicle (HDV) gathered force.

HDV is a joint venture agreed between the council and a private developer, the Australian firm Lendlease, to build more homes in the borough. The scheme would transfer around 1,400 council-owned homes into private hands, with plans to demolish these homes and build more than 6,000 in their place. Under current proposals, the vast majority of these homes would then be sold on the open market.

The series of votes unfolded between 8th November and 6th December. Some councillors were replaced and others stood down, giving anti-HDV councillors a clear majority in the Labour group, according to campaigners.

### "Haringey Council has failed to carry the community with it"

Council leader Cllr Claire Kober was one of those who survived the de-selection attempt, but Lorna Reith, the Chief Whip on the Labour group, lost out to an anti-HDV candidate. Cllr Alan Strickland, Labour's Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration and a figure closely associated with HDV, chose to withdraw from the selection process, citing the "sectarian atmosphere" in the local party.

Stop HDV, one of the main groups protesting against the proposals, says that just 12 of the Labour figures who will fight council seats in May now back HDV, outnumbered nearly four-fold by the 45 who oppose it.

Before the deselection votes, 29 councillors supported HDV and 21 were against it, the group claims.

The council has made "firm guarantees" that existing tenants on the estates affected would have the right to return after the work is complete, and rehoused on what it calls "equivalent terms and rents."

Supporters of the scheme, which include Cllr Kober, argue that the scheme is an essential part of the council's plan to tackle the borough's housing crisis. The council also says that it will aim for 40% of homes built under HDV to be sold as affordable housing.

However, the campaign group Stop HDV claims that the plans amount to "social cleansing," and is an attempt to gentrify the borough in the teeth of opposition from its residents.

They are joined in this concern by both the borough's Labour MPs, David Lammy and Catherine West.

In an open letter to Kober this July, Lammy described the proposals as the "most controversial and contentious issue" he had seen in Tottenham since being elected in 2000. Lammy wrote: "Haringey Council has failed to carry the community with it and has appeared out of touch and heavy-handed.

"Residents have not been consulted properly, community concerns have



Haringey Civic Centre Credit Stephen Furner

not been allayed, financial risks have not been mitigated and the Council's own Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been ignored, and it is clear that the HDV has been forced through in the face of serious opposition within the community and within the council itself."

Haringey Council has faced cuts of

around £160 million since 2010, according to a statement on its website, and estimates that it will have halved in size by 2020.

For more details about the Haringey Development Vehicle:

Visit haringey.gov.uk/regeneration/ haringey-development-vehicle



Station Road Credit Stephen Furner

## FEATURE

Advice Universal Credit: navigating the maze. And what effect is it having on people's lives

## Just a phone call away

Social enterprise connects people to tackle isolation and loneliness in the winter months



Dialing into a large conference call Credit Community Network

**By Michiel Willems** 

s the winter sets in, and the thermostat creeps up, people tend to move indoors, avoiding icy winds and pouring rain.

While for many the winter may be a period of mulled wine and fireplace chats, for lots of older people in Tottenham, it is a bitterly lonely period marked by lack of social contact. Some of Tottenham's senior residents who live alone may find themselves house bound during the winter months.

Winter isolation is increasingly a problem in Britain and Haringey is no exception. Research shows that across the UK, more than half of all people aged 75 and over live alone and four in every 10 older people say the TV is their main company during the winter months. As well as being emotionally challenging, loneliness can also be damaging to an individual's health and it affects people of all ages.

As temperatures drop, so do the visits from friends and family. Petra (not her real name) knows this all too well. "After Christmas, I often do not see my grandchildren until March or even April," she says.

Since her son and his family live over an hour away, and wintry

conditions make them stay locally, January and February are particularly challenging months for Petra. "It is depressing really, innit. There is nothing on the telly, and no one who rings at my door. The days can be terribly long," she continues.

While some older people find it relatively easy to reach out to neighbours and local friends, others find this more challenging. "Admitting that one is lonely is a hard one, people think there is something wrong with you," Petra sighs.

Going outside is not really an option either, as it gets dark early, and roads and pavements are often dangerously wet and slippery.

Petra explains: "I do have a girl friend in Wood Green, but we always quarrel over who should visit who, as none of us wants to risk a fall outside."

In north London, local councils and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) work closely together to tackle social isolation. They are running a range of projects to use the resources in local communities to promote wellbeing and reduce loneliness.

One way to combat social isolation is by bringing people together on the phone. Community Network is a charity and social enterprise that fights loneliness and the devastating effects it has on health and wellbeing. The telephone groups give people the chance to socialise, share experiences and support each other without having to leave their homes. Emily, who is in her late 80s, takes part in the phone groups. She says: "I used to go to the pub or the park, but now I can no longer do that. I use my phone to make friends," she says with a big smile.

"I may not actually have met them, but some [members] feel like close friends."

Jane Hartzig is a project officer at Community Network. She says: "Our work to combat loneliness would not be possible without our brilliant, dedicated volunteer facilitators who make the time out of their own lives to make others' lives richer and help isolated individuals make friends and feel connected."

Are you or someone you know experiencing a time of loneliness? Would you be interested in talking to others in an accessible and safe way? Find out more about Community Network:

Visit communitynetworkprojects.org Call 020 7923 5250 Email info@community-network.org



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## PHOTOGRAPHY



Photograph by Jamie Breur

## PHOTOGRAPHY



Photograph by Joanna Narkwa

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

### **FEATURE**

## Universal Credit: Navigating the maze

Universal Credit has been in the headlines a lot recently, but how is it changing the benefits system in practice? And what effect is it having on people's lives?

formerly homeless, ex-prisoner with a history of alcohol abuse and mental health issues has shared their experience of applying for Universal Credit in Tottenham.

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Having been referred to Citizens Advice Tottenham, after using Crutch Haringey for food and clothing, Maggie (not the person's real name) told of her frustrations.

Maggie applied for Universal Credit after learning Employment and Support Allowance would not be available to her. On release from prison she had no GP and so did not have a fit note stating she was unable to work, a pre-requisite for Employment and Support Assistance applicants.

On her second visit to Citizens Advice Tottenham, Maggie appeared intoxicated and dishevelled. She had found the benefit system stressful and had returned to drinking alcohol to cope.

Maggie could not understand why the money she needed to pay for her rent had not been put into her account. She was frightened of becoming homeless again.

The person she had spoken to at Job Centre Plus explained she would need to wait six weeks from her application before payment.

It is stories like these that have raised questions about the implementation of the Universal Credit schemes. In response, Citizens Advice Tottenham is working hard to let people like Maggie, and many others, understand what Universal Credit is and raise awareness of additional support available.

#### The facts

Universal Credit is a monthly pay-

ment that helps people who are on a low income or unemployed with living costs.

It is being introduced in stages nationally and replaces Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, Income support, income-based Job Seekers Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance and Working Tax Credit. Applications are made online.

Universal Credit is paid monthly in arrears, with the first payment taking six weeks to arrive and there are no limits to how many hours a week someone can work while receiving the benefit. However, the amount received will reduce as the claimant earns'. This means that all benefits will not be lost immediately if somebody becomes employed. People who receive help with their rent will get money for their

landlord in the monthly payment. Couples living together, who are both entitled to Universal Credit, will get one monthly joint payment, paid into a single bank account. Claimant households must not have earnings and savings or capital worth over £6,000. And if the applicant or someone else in the household has other earnings and/or savings these will be considered.

**Citizens Advice research** has found that:

• The six-week waiting period can cause or make debt problems worse, affecting rent arrears especially Poor administration is delaying submissions and payment

 Claimants who are in debt or who have fluctuating incomes find it difficult to adjust to monthly payments • Claimants struggle to open a suitable bank account into which payments can be made, leading to delays in receiving benefits

· Claimants are experiencing finan $cial \, difficulties \, because \, of the \, amount$ of money which can be deducted for other debts or overpayments

But it is important to know that additional support is available.

#### For example:

 Advance Payments allow Universal Credit households in financial difficulty to request a recoverable advance of up to 50% of their entitlement

• Alternate Payment Arrangements are available for claimants for whom the standard monthly Universal Credit payment is not suitable. Claimants can make a claim at a job centre or through the Universal Credit helpline.

#### By Michael Bowden

• Personal Budgeting Support is a service providing money advice that guides claimants through the transition to the financial changes of Universal Credit. For more information, visit entitledto.co.uk/help/ Universal-Credit-Personal-Budgeting-Support

• Assisted Digital Support is a digital financial management training available to claimants.

The Department for Work and Pension's guidance states that claimants considered vulnerable and in need of help managing their money will be referred by the Universal Credit service to their local authority. The local authority will then determine the claimants' budgeting support needs.

There's not doubt that this new shake up to the benefits system can be tricky to get your head around, which is why it is important to know where to look for further advice. See below for details.

**Crutch Haringey** Visit crutchharingey.com Call 0203 872 5856 Email info@crutchharingey.com Emergency food provision timetable crutchharingey.com/ haringevemergencyfood-provisions

Haringey Citizens Advice Visit citizensadvice.org.uk/ local/haringey Call 0300 330 1187 (Weekdays 10am-1pm & 2pm-4pm) Email admin@haringeycabx.org.uk

Universal Credit Visit gov.uk/universal-credit Call 0800 328 9344 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

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### Get involved

Do you want to discuss an issue affecting Tottenham or do you have any feedback about the stories we publish? We are launching a new letters page in 2018. Please send in your letters about the issues that matter most to you.

E: tcp@socialspider.com

## Your Problems. Solved.

From managing household bills to the rules around pension schemes when starting a new job, Haringey Citizens Advice shares its expertise

Tam behind on my energy bills and my energy company wants to install a prepayment meter. I don't want one as I've heard they can be more expensive than paying by direct debit. What can I do?

Suppliers may try to install a prepament meter if you are falling behind on your bills. This is so you can pay for your energy by topping up your meter before you use it, and don't get into debt.

If you don't want pay for energy in this way, contact your supplier to tell them you are struggling with your bills. They should help you agree a repayment plan, based on how much you can afford and how much energy you use. If you are already on a plan but can't afford it, see if you can make a new arrangement.

Also discuss with your supplier the costs of the different meters and tariffs. Once you've agreed to pay back your debts, your supplier won't install a prepayment meter if you don't want one.

There are further steps you can take to help you with your bills. You may be eligible for the Warm Home Discount, which could reduce your energy bill by £140, or a one off Cold Weather Payment from the government. Some energy companies also offer grants to their customers to pay off fuel debts, while other companies and charities have grants which are open to anyone.

**T** 've just started a new job and am being offered auto-enrolment for the first time. Do I have to join the scheme? I'm worried about meeting my living costs if I do.

Even if retirement is a long way off, or you've got immediate costs you need to cover it's still worth starting a pension. They are a great way to save for the future and can offer you financial security once you've stopped working. They're also good value for money as your contribution gets topped up by both your employer and the government.

If you're worried that auto-enrolment will make it harder for you to keep up with your living costs ask your employer how much your monthly contribution will be. Then add up the cost of your monthly expenses and take this away from your income, which should include your pensions deduction.

It's also worth seeing if you're able to start receiving tax credits or a benefit such as Universal Credit to help with your living costs.

You will be automatically signed up to auto-enrolment so if you want to opt out you'll need to tell your employer. Make sure you do this within one month to get a refund on the contribution you've made.

Citizens Advuce provide free, confidential and impartial advice and campaign on big issues affecting people's lives. For more information:

Visit citizensadvice.org.uk/ local/haringey/ Call 0300 330 1187 (Weekdays 10am-1pm & 2pm-4pm) Email admin@haringeycabx.org.uk

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providing a welcoming and relax-

ing atmosphere. Our friendly and personal approach has been well

received and appreciated which in

turn has helped us retain our reg-

ulars and attract new participants

through positive reviews on Time

Out, word of mouth and internet

searches. We employ profession-

al and varied models for our life

drawing classes which is something

we often receive compliments for.

est achievements to date?

TCP: What have been your great-

TG: Our greatest achievement was

to attract over 45 people on the first

night of our life drawing class with

a queue going out the door of our

original venue, Tottenham Chances. We also beat our crowdfunding

target to launch painting courses

in the area and attracted up to 70 people to draw for free on our first

birthday. Over the past four years,

we have launched the only drop-in

watercolour class in London, engag-

And we proudly organise and

hold an annual group exhibition at

Craving Coffee showcasing work

produced by the participants at our

classes, which is now going into its

fourth year. Last year saw sales over  $\pounds600$  on work produced in Totten-

ham with most buyers from the local

area investing in art by local artists. In a less specific, but equally important way, since we launched we

have proudly developed and nur-

tured close working and positive

relationships with local venues,

artists, models and participants.

ing many aged 60 and over.

## CULTURE

## Arts in the right place

Tottenham Community Press interviews the founders of Tottenham Art Classes as they celebrate a successful four years in business



A splash of watercolour Credit Tottenham Art Classes

**CP:** When did you launch Tottenham Art Classes and why?

Taz Gray: We (Taz and Tom Gray) launched Tottenham Art Classes in 2014 after we moved in to the area late 2011. Not knowing the area at all we wanted to meet people and make friends. We started off with a small social group where we got locals living in and around Tottenham to meet and discover cultural places of interest in the borough together.

With one conversation leading to another about the lack of art classes or creative things to do in the area, I put some of my savings aside to launch a simple £5 life drawing class on Thursday evenings.

We wanted it to be an affordable, accessible and inclusive class aimed at anyone who wanted to do something creative closer to home after they finished work or college/university. Locals would be able to meet other people with similar interests and start feeling part of a creative community. Since then we've met many local and non-local people who enjoy our classes and have made some great friends, which is a bonus!

We now run daytime watercolour classes on Monday's at Lordship Hub and evening life drawing classes on Thursday's at the Beehive Pub. We organise and run these classes in our free time around our full time jobs. TCP: What factors have contributed to your success over the past

uted to your success over the past 4 years?

TG: Whilst I come up with concepts for classes, organise tutors, marketing and logistics, Tom is the design force behind the brand. He designed the logo, website, flyers, posters and newsletters.

Together we learnt how to use social media; Twitter, Facebook pages and more recently Instagram. We put up posters and flyers in shop windows, restaurants, cafes, community centres during the first couple of years to get locals to notice a new class was coming.

We attended events within the community and connected with different groups to speak to people directly and let them know about our class. We developed a mailing list by gathering people's interest. All this helped us create a positive presence within the community.

Our participants have mentioned that the classes are good value for the area (cheaper than anywhere else), the classes are well organised

#### By Taz and Tom Gray

TCP: What contribution have you made to the community in Tottenham?

TG: We have worked closely with many venues around Tottenham including Tottenham Chances, Beehive Pub, Lordship Hub, Triangle Centre, Styx and Craving Coffee.

The watercolour class is currently held at Lordship Hub and the lifedrawing class at the Beehive Pub, with an annual group show being held at Craving Coffee. We work together to get new audiences to these venues to discover a new part of Tottenham, other activities that are available and to further explore their creative potential.

We are a spend partner for the London Time Credit scheme, where members can spend their time credits at our classes and get creative with the local community.

Where possible we have employed local artists and models to deliver our classes and courses, provided volunteering opportunities as well as networking and collaboration opportunities. We've arranged group trips and visits to museums and galleries inside and outside of London, securing free tickets to exhibitions to those on our mailing list.

Ultimately, we have been consistently working towards the goal of provoking artistic conversation in Tottenham.

For more information about Tottenham Art Classes: Visit tottenhamartclasses.co.uk/ Email info@tottenhamartclasses. co.uk



Picking up tips Credit Tottenham Art Classes

## LISTINGS

## Upcoming

#### Tottenham Photography

**Club Meeting** Wednesday 10th January, 7:30pm-9:00pm Wednesday 14th February, 7:30pm-9:00pm Lordship Hub, Lordship Rec N17 6NU

Tottenham Photography Club's monthly meeting, for anybody with an interest in photography. From complete amateurs to experienced photographers, everybody is welcome.

Free Visit facebook.com/groups/ TottPhotoClub/

An Introduction to Community Organising, Principles & Organising Practice Wednesday 17 January, 9:30am–4:00pm Selby Centre, Selby Road N17 8JL

This one day training course introduces the core foundations of community organising – genuine, effective listening which sparks dialogue and explores motivations, an analysis of power in community and how to build it, and an exploration of how to organise and motivate people to take effective action together to address common concerns.

#### Free

Visit selbytrust.co.uk/events/ introduction-communityorganisingprinciplesorganising-practice-1day-workshop Call 020 8885 5499 (Moussa) Email moussa.amine@ selbytrust.co.uk

**Bad Airs, Agues and Fevers Exhibition** Exhibition runs until 1 April 2018 Open to general public: Wednesday to Sunday 1–5pm Bruce Castle Museum and Haringey Archive, Lordship Lane N17 8NU

A hands-on exhibition that charts the fascinating story of pioneering Tottenham chemist John Eliot Howard FRS (1807-1883), whose scientific discoveries were pivotal in the fight against malaria.

Free Email museum.services@ haringey.gov.uk Call 020 8808 8772

## Ongoing

Family Singing Session Saturdays, 11.30am–12.15pm Lordship Hub, Lordship Lane N17 6NU

Not your usual baby/toddler singing ses-sion... there'll be some tunes that parents and carers will be more familiar with as well, a bit of harmony and plenty of rhythm! So come and join Andrew and Celeste for a fun packed session at Lordship Hub in Lordship Recreation Ground.

£5 per child, £2 per sibling Call 020 8885 5684 Email glynis@lordshiphub.org.uk Free legal advice for Northumberland Park Ward 11am to 1pm every Tuesday Northumberland Park Resource Centre, 177 Park Lane N17 OHJ

Are you a resident in Northumberland Park Ward? Receive free legal advice on housing, welfare benefits, debt and immigration every Tuesday.

Haringey Law Centre is an independent local charity. We have been working in Tottenham since 1976. We give free legal advice to Haringey people who cannot afford a lawyer.

To check whether you are eligible, visit haringey.gov.uk/localdemocracy/ councillors-and-mps/find-my-ward

For more information Visit haringeylawcentre.org.uk

Inclusive Clubs at Markfield Under 5s Inclusive Stay and Play Every Thursday of Term Time, 11:30am-2:30pm The Markfield Project, Markfield Park, Markfield Road N15 4RB

#### Indoor and Outdoor Play

Every Saturday 11am–3pm at the adventure playground. Both these activities welcome families with disabled or non-disabled children, it's a chance for all children to play together.

#### InfoChill

Most Saturdays, 12pm–2pm. Young peo-ple aged 11-25 with additional needs can come for information and advice in a relaxed & informal atmosphere. This has primarily been about education and post-education choices, so far, but can be a lot broader.

For more info: Visit markfield.org.uk/ eventscalendar/ Call 020 3667 5228

**Walking Club** Every Friday at 10am Selby Centre, Selby Road N17 8JL

All ages are welcome to a walking club that starts off at the Selby Centre. Meet a new friend, walk at a comfortable pace and get exercise at the same time. A great way to warm up or get fresh air to start the day.

Free Call 07950 220 214 (Marika)

**Magic and Wonder** Wednesdays, 4:45pm to 5:45pm (starting 11th September)

Magic and Wonder Workshop for children aged 8 to 12 years with magician Thomas Dixon. Amaze your family and friends! Learn magic skills, gain confidence and have fun.

£5 per session Email Thomas on tdixon27@ gmail.com Visit lordshiphub.org.uk/ events/2017/09/magic-and-wonderworkshops-0/ Start Up & Test Enterprise Programme (S.T.E.P) Northumberland Park Ongoing support | April 2017–March 2018 (Contact MLB for specific dates & activities) Suite 31/ The 639 Enterprise Centre 639 High Road, Tottenham N17 8AA

If you have an idea for a new business start up and are living in the Northumberland Park area then register for this FREE course! The S.T.E.P programme will teach you how to launch a business, raise finance, test and promote your new enterprise.

Free for residents of Northumberland Ward Email mlbsolutionsuk@gmail.com Call 02036918488 or 07538349650 Visit mlbls.co.uk

**Every Woman Six Week Programme** Starts Thursday 11th January, from 9:30am The Engine Room, Unit A, Eagle Heights, Hale Village, Tottenham Hale N17 9FU

A six week course on everything regarding your pelvic floor, core, nutrition, relaxation, stress reduction and women's fitness and wellness at whatever life phase you're in.

£107 for 6-week course Visit facebook.com/ events/378111489304000/

Haringey Climate Forum Wednesday, 10th January, starts 7pm

The Council will publish its response to the Zero 50 report at full council on 4 This will be an opportunity to scrutinise the response to its Zero 50 report on how to make Haringey reach zero carbon by 2050, and to decide how to keep up pressure to make Council commitments a reality.

Free

Visit haringey.gov.uk/event/haringeyclimate-forum-can-haringey-reachzero-carbon-2050 Contact Quentin Given Call 07946 535656 Email quentin.given@btinternet.com

### Submit Your Listing

Send us the name of your event/activity, the date/time, location and short description of it.

Deadline for listings in the March/April issue is 15th February

Email tcp@socialspider.com

## **Poets Corner**

## **The Lane** by Terry Egan

What's down there only wandering can tell you.

A doctor and a train station are two things.

But then there's the supermarket, for shopping,

and, further, the lazy lane-way's meander.

You get to where buses pull up for a rest,

and a pub used to open up for a drink.

Oh! But cross that other train track, and a road,

work your way through a kind of stile that's a gate;

and there, look! green fields and blue sky those ripples:

the river wandering away in its turn...

### CULTURE

## From aspiring dancers to young leaders

Accessible performing arts group Leaders Community comes back to its Tottenham roots

By Ellie Rae Ward



The Leaders' squad jumps for joy Credit Leaders' Community

ver a cup of tea at Blooming Scent café in the Bernie Grant Arts Centre, *Tottenham Community Press* sits down for a chat with the founders of Leaders Community.

Leaders Community is a not for profit organisation that was set up by Marie Theo, her sister Androulla and niece Nadia, to deliver initiatives that support children and young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

These initiatives are centred on performing arts, which the organisation strongly believes improves the wellbeing of children and young people – their confidence, communication skills and also their academic achievements.

Marie explains that she grew up on the Meridian Walk Estate in Tottenham. Her mother was a dancer, and although she did not pursue dancing professionally, dance and music were central to her formative years.

"We grew up very poor, with humble beginnings, but we were very cultured. There was never any emphasis on wealth. I don't think we realised we were that poor until we were teenagers," she reflects.

Androulla reminisces fondly about the Meridian Walk Estate: "We were

a community on that estate. And we've still got those friends."

Marie adds: "We were like our own world within a world. There was no you're black, you're green, you're Irish. We were all the same."

The 'lightbulb moment', which led to the creation of Leaders Community, came when Marie's mother died unexpectedly in April 2015.

The shock of her mother's death hit Marie hard, and even two years on, recounting this memory brings tears to her eyes. She explains that her mother had always said she should open her own dance school and that's exactly what she did – in the form of Leaders Community.

"The moment came when I dec ided I'm going to get up now and open a non-profit organisation and it's going to be about leading the way. It's about how I was brought up, which was my Mum saying 'go on, it doesn't matter that you were brought up in social housing in Tottenham, get up, go out there, educate yourself and do something with your life."

Leaders offers free or heavily subsidised dance workshops, mostly in street and commercial dance, as well as leadership training programmes to children and young people of all backgrounds. "I didn't want to open a dance school that only affluent families could access, which is basically the norm in this industry. Our aim is to give young people something to do – to steer them away from negative behaviour and negative cycles. Often when something is free it is of a lesser quality, but we hire the best of the best teaching staff.

"When you grow up in social housing, you're often an underachiever and the world tends to keep you down. You don't have access to the same opportunities. We aim to change this," says Marie triumphantly.

Even though the organisation is relatively young, Leaders' students have already performed at high profile events, including at the Houses of Parliament and at Radio One's Big Weekend festival.

Leaders Community has so far focussed its work in Waltham Forest but is now working to expand into Tottenham. Marie says: "What I want to do is mimic what we've done in Waltham Forest. We're Tottenham girls... this is our home. We want to give back here and get the children engaged."

Leaders currently offers Commercial Street Dance Classes on Tuesdays from 4pm at the Bruce Grove Youth Space. The classes  $cost \pounds_3$  for learners



Strike a pose Credit Leaders' Community

aged 7 to 10 and are free for over 11s. One of the biggest challenges facing the team as it looks to expand this offer in Tottenham throughout 2018 is finding affordable spaces to use for the classes. Please get in touch if you can help.

For more information and to get in touch with the team:

Visit leaderscommunity.org Call 07831 224510 Email enquires@ leaderscommunity.org

For more information and class timetables at the Bruce Grove Youth Space: Visit youthspace.haringey.gov.uk/ bruce-grove-youth-space



## COMMUNITY

## Tottenham remembers

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, Tottenham Green Memorial fell silent in remembrance



Tottenham Green Memorial Credit Stephen Furner



Former Tottenham player Ledley Kind lays a wreath in remembrance

S aturday, November 11, marked 99 years since the end of the First World War and services were across held across London to remember and honour all those who have given their lives in combat.

The former footballer Ledley King, who spent his entire career playing 321 competitive matches for Tottenham Hotspur between 1999 an 2012, attended a service at the Tottenham Green Memorial, where a Spurs wreath was laid.

When World War One ended in 1918, King George V called for silence to remember the many who had been lost. He proclaimed: "All locomotion should cease, so that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead."

Visit britishlegion.org.uk

# Tottenham-based author's latest books reviewed

By Kasia Truefitt

iscover your way around the world of Adrian Hawkes in his latest books; *Icejacked* and *Perspectives: The Alphabet of Life.* 

Alongside his work at the Tottenham-based charity Phoenix Community Care, Adrian Hawkes is an author. His latest reads – *Icejacked* and *Perspectives: the Alphabet of Life* – provide two very different outlooks that reflect upon his lifetime of experience, engaging with themes of culture, life and growing old.

Hawkes says: "It has long fascinated me how things change, not just due to me growing older but what I experience as I move in and out of different cultures".

Hawkes loves being based within such a diverse community in Tottenham, as it provides a vibrant and youthful place that enhances creativity. Hawkes defines his writing as collaborative, with major links to his work with Phoenix Community Care Charity, young people living in care and young asylum seekers that he works with.

Hawkes writes about what he knows; the people he has met, cultures he has experienced and environments he has engaged in. Altogether these have helped shape his life lessons and the characters in his stories.

*Icejacked* follows the journey of how a 2,030-year-old man finds himself fitting into modern day society in Switzerland. Adrian's first-hand experience of the country, the culture and the people, provided him with the inspiration to write a fictional story of a Roman man who is discovered at the top of a mountain, melted and brought back to life.

Hawkes plays on his humour and comic timing, which directs the reader to question how quickly human beings can adapt and acclimatize to new environments, using basic human survival instincts and behaviours.

Hawkes' most recent book – Perspectives: The Alphabet of Life – examines the life perspectives of a husband, a father and a grandfather. Perspectives covers the 'alphabet of life' from asylum seekers, education and human rights, to relationships, dying and sex.

Hawkes explains that he writes to persuade, change things and even alter people's mindsets. He has captured, in his stories, perspectives on important issues and life lessons to challenge, inspire, be vulnerable and ultimately, make a change.

You can order your copy of Icejacked and Perspectives here:

Visit amazon.co.uk/Books-Adrian-Hawkes Or adrianhawkes.co.uk

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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.

Sor public law call Penny on 020 8885 7924

Call us today to make an appointment.







### SPORT

## The 'Nicola Adams Effect'

From Tottenham High Road to Olympic glory, Clayre Bennett presents Nicola Adams' story



Nicola Adams in action at the Olympics

n 2007, Nicola Adams moved from Leeds to join the Haringey Boxing Club, located on the grounds of the Tottenham Community Sports Centre. The Club was founded in 1999 by Gerry Willmott MBE, a former Metropolitan Police officer, Police boxer and experienced coach of Met and National Police teams.

As an experienced boxer, Adams saw Haringey as a forerunner in the growth of female boxing, which at the time was still in its infancy. This reputation was largely a result of the club's well-known coach and matchmaker, Terri Kelly's, enthusiasm for promoting female boxing. Adams went on to represent Haringey at home and abroad, also winning the gold at Haringey Box cup in 2009.

The 'Nicola Adams effect', according to a Sport England survey, was that the number of women participating in boxing and boxing training once-a-week rose by 50% - from 23,300 (for the period October 2011-October 2012) to 35,100 (from April 2012-April 2013).

Fast forward to today, Adams is the first woman to win an Olympic boxing title - she is the 2012 and 2016 Olympic gold medalist in the women's flyweight division. She is the reigning Olympic, World, Commonwealth Games and European Games champion at flyweight. In 2012, she became the first female boxer to receive an award from the Boxing Writers' Club of Great Britain.

Adams signed with promoter Frank Warren and made her professional debut on 8 April 2017 in Manchester and celebrated a clear first victory. She now lives and trains in California, in the same team as former world champion Amir Khan. The only other woman in the team is the American Marlen Esparza, a world amateur champion and Olympian who has also turned professional and is her partner. Adams passed through her former training ground on Tottenham High Road in the Summer of 2016 and continues to be an inspiration to youngsters training at the gym. She is still registered with Haringey Boxing club as a Haringey boxer. "It is 50-50 physical and mental,"

Adams says. "You can be the strongest boxer in the world, but if you don't have that balief you will get nowhere. Some

belief, you will get nowhere. Sometimes I can see that doubt in an opponent's eyes, and I know I will win."

To find out more about Nicola Adam's story, look out for her new autobiography, titled 'Believe: Boxing, Olympics and My Life Outside the Ring'.

To find out more about Haringey Boxing Club:

Visit haringeyboxingclub.com Call 07764 583291 Established over 45 years ago by a determined band of volunteers, many of whom are still connected with the centre today, Tottenham Community Sports Centre (TCSC) was one of the first sports centres in London.

Based in converted Territorial Army buildings on Tottenham High Road, almost opposite Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, the premises are leased from Haringey Council by the Tottenham Community Sports Centre Charitable Trust.

TCSC is a multipurpose community centre with facilities that include a main sports hall, small sportshall, table tennis room, dual use air rifle range,gallery fitness room, small cardio vascular fitness room, crèche, judo room, two committee/multipurpose rooms, offices, kitchen, sauna and a lounge bar area.

#### Relaunch of KIDS CAN CLUB Ltd

Looking for an affordable After School Club for your child? KIDS CAN Club Ltd can help. TCSC will be relaunching the club in 2018. Stay tuned and see the contact details below for more information.

#### Saracens Sport Foundation HITZ PROGRAMME

For all young people aged 16 to 18 years old – Get fit and learn about health and nutrition, gain a qualification, attend exciting outdoor adventures and rafting trips, plus much more. Interested? Get in touch with Lauren Briggs on 07983 259 592

#### Basketball – TOTTENHAM TORNADOES CALLING ALL GIRLS AND BOYS aged 6–15 years old.

Basketball sessions take place every Thursday from 3.45pm — 5.00pm in the main hall at TCSC with Dean and Hesketh.

#### Ballet with Anita Dyulgerova

Dainty feet or not – this class is open to all ages. Enroll now with choreographer Anita. Classes are on Wednesday afternoons. Contact Anita on 0754 1747 330 or ask for more information at the centre.

Tottenham Community Sports Centre 701-703 High Rd, N17 8AD Visit tottenhamsports.co.uk/ Call 020 8801 6401

### Get involved

Tottenham Community Press is a new independent community newspaper. We want to hear your views, your news and to report stories relevant to the people of Tottenham. Our aim is to address and reflects the opinions, concerns and interests of local people. We are looking for local stories, opinions, news stories, events, campaigns and photographs. If you would like to contribute a local story or get involved please get in contact with the team. Email: tcp@socialspider.com