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Credit Stephen Furner

A vigil held last month in memory of private hire driver Gabriel Bringye, who was fatally stabbed in February 2021 – read more on p.4

## Civic centre turmoil as police investigate council property deal

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

**H**aringey Labour group has rejected calls for an independent investigation into possible fraud and corruption within the council amid concerns over property deals.

During a full council meeting last month, Labour councillors instead backed council leader Peray Ahmet's proposal for an "independent external investigation into historical arrangements for property transactions".

Liberal Democrat group leader Luke Cawley-Harrison had tabled a motion to full council calling for the wide-ranging investigation into possible fraud and corruption

following controversy over the authority's handling of a development proposed for the site of former care home Cranwood House, in Muswell Hill.

The council initially planned to knock down several terraced homes to make way for the Cranwood development and spent more than £2million purchasing one of the properties, but the planned demolition was later dropped.

A report by the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO), published in January, found the council failed to treat neighbours whose houses faced possible demolition even-handedly and told the authority to pay £1,000 in compensation to one of the residents for the stress and uncertainty caused by its approach to the development.

Separately, it emerged that the Metropolitan Police had been investigating allegations of fraud linked to an aspect of the Cranwood scheme. No arrests have been made.

Cllr Cawley-Harrison's motion also raised concerns that decisions relating to other council property deals had been taken "without proper processes in place and without oversight".

But council leader Peray Ahmet tabled an amended motion at the full council meeting which removed the call for an investigation into possible fraud and corruption. Her motion acknowledged that the council "failed to fully co-operate with the ombudsman's investigation" and "misled" a scrutiny panel about the timings of decisions relating to the Cranwood scheme.

It also noted that the police investigation into fraud allegations was "not linked to the findings of the LGO report", and that the council had "committed to fully co-operating" with the Met's inquiry.

Former council leader Joseph Ejiofor, whose decision to cancel the proposed demolition was described as "flawed" in the ombudsman's report, has issued a statement noting that there has been "no suggestion from the police or the council" that he was "in any way connected" to what the police were investigating.

The former council leader also disputed the findings of the ombudsman's report and said he did not accept his decision was flawed. Cllr Ejiofor previously

Continued on Page-3





## Local news that matters to you

1<sup>st</sup> March



Waning  
Crescent

2%/0.53

31<sup>st</sup> March



New  
Moon

1%/0.52

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At *Haringey Community Press* we believe that the borough deserves a newspaper that is written by and for local people, and which celebrates community in all its diversity.

We believe that local news brings people together around the issues that matter most to them and ensures everyone can have a voice in local decision-making. Now more than ever we believe that the media should be responsive and accountable to the community it serves.

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## The Bruce Castle Park Oak by Diane Dalli



# AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE EDITOR

**H**ELLO, WELCOME TO ISSUE 5.

The police are investigating fraud allegations linked to a council-led housing scheme development in Muswell Hill (p.1)

In February last year, Gabriel Bringye was fatally stabbed in Tottenham whilst at work as a private hire driver. Gabriel's family does not want his death to be in vain and they are calling for hail-a-ride operators to put increased safety measures in place (p.4)

Safety is also the concern of some local residents who want to see a decrease in crime and anti-social behaviour in Finsbury Park (p.5).

Did you know that Muswell Hill was pivotal in the formation of early cinema? Ian Christie, Professor of Film and Media History at Birkbeck College, University of London, shares all in the new exhibition: *Come Along Do! The Lost World of Paul's Animatograph Works*, Muswell Hill 1898–1909, which you can find out about on p.11.

On page 12, Bee Veronica Moore discusses the importance of Haringey's young people engaging in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Maths) education. Whilst young people across London and Essex battled it out on the dancefloor at Jacksons Lane (p.5), and students at Haringey Learning Partnership marked Holocaust Memorial Day with an informative tour of the *Anne Frank: A History for Today*, exhibition.

With energy bills set to increase next month, Tottenham MP,

David Lammy describes what the rising cost-of-living means for his constituents (p.13).

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**Luchia Robinson**

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- **Application for a New Premises Licence: Fornaro, 43 Muswell Hill Road, Hornsey, London N10 3JB (WK/526579)**
- **For the premises Fornaro situated at: 43 Muswell Hill Road, Hornsey, London N10 3JB**

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at by contacting Licensing Team at [licensing@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@haringey.gov.uk)

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice in writing to [licensing@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@haringey.gov.uk), giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: **13/03/2022**

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**Dated:** 14th day of February 2022

**Signed:** Cristian Scirocco



***“The outcome of the vote at the meeting commits the council to co-operating fully with the inquiries”***

insisted the decision “was a result of the council listening to residents” who had “opposed the demolition of their homes”.

The outcome of the vote at the meeting commits the council to co-operating fully with the inquiries, including the independent investigation into historical arrangements for property transactions.

Cllr Ahmet invited Cllr Cawley-Harrison to meet to discuss the scope of the external investigation.

But during a speech to the meeting, the Lib Dem group leader said it was “disappointing” the Labour group had “seen fit to water down” his motion. He branded the leader’s amendment “a commitment to nothing serious at all”, adding “we won’t support that”.

Also speaking during the meeting, Cllr Ahmet said the inquiry she had proposed would “leave no stone unturned” and there should be “no unanswered questions” at the end of it. She added that she hoped it would allow the council to “draw a line under” the issue.

Separately it looks like Cllr Ejiofor will not be standing for re-election as a Labour candidate in May’s local election, after he posted on social media to say that he had been “removed” as a candidate by Labour’s London regional board.



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# Council pledges extra support for struggling schools

**H**aringey Council plans to strengthen its support for schools facing financial difficulties because of falling pupil numbers and government funding cuts.

The council pledged to offer extra help for schools in response to a scrutiny review that was presented to cabinet members last month.

Schools are funded mainly on a per-pupil basis using a national formula. A council report states that the falling birth rate in Haringey coupled with more people moving out of the borough has led to reduced demand for school places, meaning the schools estate is “too big” at primary level and will soon be too large at secondary level.

The report adds that the government recently announced it will scrap a grant designed to allow councils to monitor the performance of schools under their control.

The council’s overview and scrutiny committee carried out a review to consider how the authority could help schools improve and co-ordinate places, and the council’s response to its findings was presented to cabinet on 8th February. Of the seven recommendations made following the review, the council agreed four and partially agreed the rest.

The authority’s response states that it has offered help to schools through

*Falling birth rates in Haringey coupled with more people moving out of the borough has led to reduced demand for school places*



several initiatives, including support for school business managers and work on “integrated curriculum-led financial planning”.

It continues: “There are plans in place to continue to strengthen this support and ensure that our offer meets schools’ needs. Several initiatives have already

been implemented including additional training led by the Department for Education.”

However, the response adds that it is the responsibility of schools to ensure that they are able to manage their finances effectively and remain within their allocated budget.

According to the council response, pupil exclusions have already “reduced significantly” in the borough, and there is “ongoing work with our schools and families to further support this reduction”.

The scrutiny review also recommended helping to raise the profile of less popular schools in the borough. The council said it supported schools to be ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’, with admissions booklets providing “clear and factual information about all our schools” without seeking to promote one school over another.

A further recommendation was for a report to be drawn up on the development of associations of schools able to buy in services at lower cost. The council said it was considering how it could support schools with such an initiative, and further work was needed.

Cabinet members agreed the council’s response to the recommendations.

In her introduction to the report, Zena Brabazon, cabinet member for early years, children and families, said: “I endorse the recommendations that have come out of this report, and I support the work outlined therein as well as the wide range of other support that is being offered to our schools to ensure that we continue to support and build a school estate that will take us strongly through the coming years.”

BY LUCHIA ROBINSON

## Vigil held on first anniversary of private hire driver’s death

**T**he family of a private hire driver who was fatally stabbed have held a vigil on the anniversary of his death – amid calls for improved safety.

Gabriel Bringye, 37, was stabbed to death in Jarrow Road, Tottenham Hale, in February 2021. He worked for hail-and-ride technology company, Bolt. Five people, aged between 16 and 18, were on trial over the killing as *HCP* went to press, with all having denied charges of murder and manslaughter.

Last month Gabriel’s fiancée Mariana Fazecas and siblings attended a vigil in Tottenham on the one-year anniversary of his death. Speaking to the BBC, Mariana said: “Gabriel was a very funny, energetic man. He was not worried about his life until that day [he died].”

Following Gabriel’s death there has been a campaign to improve safety measures for private hire drivers.

The Independent Workers Union of Great Britain (IWGB) and the United Private Hire Drivers (UPHD) launched ‘Gabriel’s Campaign for Driver Safety’ demanding that Bolt and other operators implement changes aimed at protecting its drivers, and for these companies to support families of drivers who are attacked.

An online petition has been signed by nearly 400 people. It states: “Gabriel’s [death] is not an isolated incident. Four private hire drivers have been stabbed and died in the last few years in London. Thousands of drivers have been physically assaulted while on the job. Many more have experienced verbal abuse.”

The IWGB safety demands include provision of sick pay

equivalent to average income for drivers who have been injured at work while they recover; giving drivers official ‘worker status’; password-protected customer ID verification via the app; partitions and CCTV being made available to drivers at subsidised rates; and the introduction of a complaints system for drivers.

The union is also demanding that ride-hailing operators recognise the IWGB and agree to regular meetings with union representatives to monitor support and safety improvements.

In a statement, an IWGB spokesperson said: “Over the last year, we know of tens of drivers who have been assaulted while on the job.

“We will not stop fighting until we get justice and until

the operators make this industry a safe place to work.

“It is vital that we do not forget those such as Gabriel who have been killed or hurt doing this job we all do. And it is vital that [...] we send a clear message to Bolt and all the operators that we will not allow them to get away with negligence over driver safety any longer.”

A Bolt spokesperson said the company had improved safety protection for drivers, stating: “Our in-app SOS button can be deployed by drivers immediately and connects directly to the emergency services and Bolt’s safety team.

“In the past year we have introduced new welfare checks on static vehicles and 24/7 support both in-app and on the phone.

“We have also significantly increased the size of our safety team, who focus on removing passengers with consistently poor driver feedback from our platform.”



## HIGHGATE

# Young dancers battle to victory at Jacksons Lane

**80 dance students take part in annual celebration of hip-hop, for the first time in two years, following the Coronavirus pandemic**

YOUNG DANCE STUDENTS, AGED 13–19, from ten groups from across London and Essex took part in dance event 'Battle', performing in solo, duo, and crew battles, at Jacksons Lane Arts Centre, last month.

Battle is an annual celebration of hip-hop dance organised by Step into Dance, the UK's largest inclusive dance programme which is run by the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) and funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation.

The event gives young dancers the opportunity to come together and share their passion and flare for dance, whilst battling it out in front of their friends for the chance to be named champions.

The day featured workshops in house and breaking, rounds of knock out battles, and showcases. Students also benefited from developing other life skills such as collaboration, creativity, discipline, and expressing their individuality.

The event was hosted by hip-hop choreographer, dancer and teacher, Yami Löfvenberg, alongside music from DJ DBO.

The judging panel, formed of

professional dancers, Olu Alatise, Hakim Saber, and Roxane Hackwood, selected the winners.

RAD's artistic director, Gerard Charles, presented the awards to: Zonation Youth Company (All Styles Crew); Praxis Performing Arts (Breaking Crew); D'jon McTernan (Solo Winner), and Caine Harrison (Duo Winner).

Gerard said: "I always enjoy attending Step into Dance's Battle as it is

such a positive and energising event. It is a fantastic showcase of talented young people and a great chance for them to meet each other, to share their skills, enthusiasm, and also to encourage each other.

"It is a true celebration of dance and how it brings people of all ages and backgrounds together. It was so exciting to see the dancers participate in workshops, and most importantly to have fun."



## WEST GREEN

# Councillors agree to rename street linked to racism

**Black Boy Lane will be renamed 'La Rose Lane' in honour of Black writer and publisher John La Rose**

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

COUNCILLORS IN HARINGEY HAVE agreed to change a street name that has been linked to racism and colonialism.

Black Boy Lane, in West Green, will be renamed La Rose Lane – in honour of writer and publisher John La Rose – after the council's corporate committee approved the change during a meeting last month.

The renaming will take place by February next year but could happen as early as December this year.

The council will provide a £300 payment to help residents and businesses cover the costs of the change.

Haringey Council launched a review of monument, building, place and street names following the Black Lives Matter demonstrations in 2020. A consultation held last year found that although 72% of residents and businesses in Black Boy Lane opposed the renaming, most of those living in St Ann's ward and Haringey borough as a whole supported the change.

Some 78% of those who responded to a fresh consultation held in December and January opposed the change, but the committee opted to rename the street after weighing up the arguments for and against the proposal.

Joseph Ejiofor, the council's former leader, who had pressed for the name

to be changed urgently, told the committee: "This is a really important decision, not just for our community, but it is a way of addressing a hurt that has been going on for a number of years."

Emine Ibrahim, another committee member, said it was important to consider the views of the wider borough as well as those living in Black Boy Lane, as it is a "shared space". She added that the council should "properly compensate" people for any difficulties caused by the change.

Following the debate, eight committee members voted for the name change, with two abstentions. The committee then unanimously agreed for the change to take effect from 1st February 2023, but for officers to aim for an earlier implementation date of 1st December 2022.

## FINSBURY PARK

# Plea for new safety measures in Finsbury Park

*A petition calling for new safety measures in Finsbury Park has been signed by nearly 1,800 people*

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

RESIDENTS HAVE CALLED FOR emergency safety measures to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in Finsbury Park.

An online petition stating that Haringey's largest park is "not safe to enjoy or travel through, particularly at dusk, dawn and when dark" has so far gained just over 1,800 signatures.

It calls on Haringey Council to install live-monitored CCTV cameras and to provide new lighting at the skatepark, on the main carriageway from Seven Sisters and on the walkway to Finsbury Park Station. It also urges a "zero tolerance" approach to gangs of drug dealers with "regular foot patrols" of police officers.

Responding to the concerns, the council has installed CCTV cameras and will introduce new lighting "as a matter of urgency". The Metropolitan Police says it has also stepped up patrols in the park.

Finsbury Park lies on the edge of Haringey and borders Islington and Hackney boroughs.

Local resident Katy Potts said she started the petition "from personal experience of how unwelcoming the park was to travel through to school and work during the winter". She added: "It feels like there is no lighting, and there is a lot of open crime happening."

Tom Graham, co-chair of the Friends of Finsbury Park, said his group had been pushing the council for better safety measures for "at least two to three years".

He added: "We think there is a debate to be had around access to the park late at night. That might be contentious for some groups, but it would make clear that after a certain hour, maybe it is not right to be in the park."

Mike Hakata, deputy council leader and cabinet member for environment, transport and the climate emergency, said the authority had taken "strong action to ensure everyone feels safe in Finsbury Park, with new lighting and CCTV put in place."

The council is investing around £300,000 to fund improvements to Finsbury Park and its facilities this year. The authority says it has no plans to lock the park at night, as this would prevent people from taking their early morning exercise and disrupt their commute to work.





# North Mid cancer centre reopens

**T**he Macmillan Information and Support Centre at North Middlesex University Hospital has reopened, offering in-person support for people affected by cancer.

The support centre was relaunched after having to close during the pandemic. It offers a wide range of information relating to all cancers, their treatments and effects. Patients can also be signposted to local support groups.

Nine out of ten people living with cancer express a need for information about their cancer, their treatment, and how to manage symptoms as well as the wider impact on their daily life and wellbeing. In 2019, the service had more than 3,500 contacts, supporting 1,800 people living with cancer and their carers.

Kaz Foncette from Tottenham sought support from the centre when she was diagnosed with breast cancer age 31 in 2019. She said: "I found it so helpful, the support manager was amazing and she would always go out of her way to find me the information I needed."

"My world often felt like it was falling apart but she would sometimes visit me at the chemo unit, gave advice and directed me where I needed to go – which is what you want because you can't soak it all in at the start. She also helped me access a Macmillan grant as I couldn't work and was on statutory sick pay, so this was vital



**Left to right:** Macmillan strategic partnership manager, Donal Gallagher, cancer survivor, Kaz Foncette, and North Mid chief executive, Dr Nnenna Osuji cut the ribbon to officially reopen the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre at North Mid Hospital **Credit** Macmillan

in giving me some independence. I was really fortunate to have someone who was like a friend. I genuinely love Macmillan."

Macmillan and North Mid have a partnership going back more than 20 years. Macmillan has invested more than £2million in North Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust to date, and together the organisations have developed many services and posts to better support people affected by cancer.

Dr Nnenna Osuji, chief executive of North Mid, said: "It's vital that patients who are living with cancer know the support available to them, so we are really pleased to reopen the Macmillan Support Pod in the heart of our atrium."

"Our local communities look to North Mid to provide them with excellent care and we know that we can make that experience better when we work in partnership with other expert organisations like Macmillan."

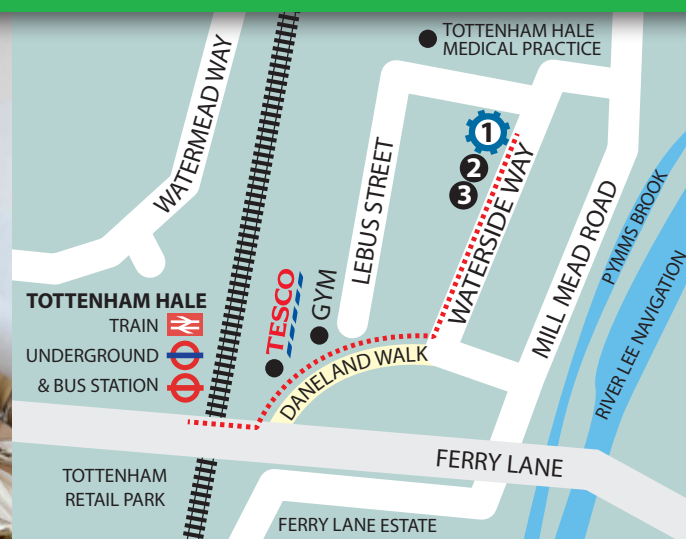
**The Macmillan Information and Support Centre is located on the ground floor of the Atrium on the main building in North Middlesex University Hospital. Opening hours are Monday to Friday, 10–4pm, except Bank Holidays. Call 0208 887 3992 or email [northmid.cancerinfo@nhs.net](mailto:northmid.cancerinfo@nhs.net).**

**For support, contact the specially trained nurses and experts on the Macmillan Support Line, 0808 808 00 00 (8am–8pm, 7 days/week) or visit: [macmillan.org.uk](http://macmillan.org.uk)**

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# Inspector slams 'unacceptable' treatment of sickle cell patients at North Mid

Inspection of service at Edmonton hospital comes after avoidable death of 21-year-old in 2019

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

**N**orth Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust has been urged to "take action" to improve its care of patients with red blood cell disorders, following an unannounced inspection by the national health watchdog.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) told the hospital trust it must make improvements to its services for patients with conditions such as sickle cell disease and thalassaemia. It comes after inspectors made an unannounced visit to the Edmonton hospital last year following a serious incident which resulted in the avoidable death of a patient.

Evan Nathan Smith, aged 21, died in April 2019 at North Mid after developing sepsis following a routine operation. Evan had sickle cell disease, which triggered the sepsis blocking certain blood vessels in the body. But hospital staff did not recognise his symptoms and Evan

later died. A coroner ruled in 2021 that his life would have been saved if he'd received the correct treatment.

The NHS trust accepted responsibility for Evan's death and has since introduced a number of changes to help improve its care, including the creation of a dedicated space for patients with sickle cell disease.

However, Nigel Acheson, CQC's deputy chief inspector for hospital inspection, said the changes had not gone far enough. He said: "We inspected North Middlesex University Hospital to check on the safety of services for patients with sickle cell disease, following the tragic, and avoidable, death of a patient."

*“Regrettably, we found the pace of improvement was slow”*

"Regrettably, we found the pace of improvement was slow. Learning had not been prioritised by the trust and improvements still needed to be made. We heard some staff did not take the disease seriously and regarded sickle cell patients as difficult. One patient, in severe pain, said she was made to feel like a drug



Credit Wikicommons

addict for requesting pain relief. This is totally unacceptable.

"Although the trust said it would put all patients with sickle cell disease on a specialist ward, we heard a significant number were not placed there. We were also extremely concerned that poor communication meant key staff weren't informed when patients with sickle cell disease were scheduled to be in the operating theatre.

While Acheson said North Mid was "not alone" in its failings, he added: "We have told the trust that it must take action to improve the service for patients with red blood cell disorders."

CQC points out in its report that the area served by North Mid has a large population of people likely to suffer from red blood cell disorders – which are more common in Black people – and that this was even more reason why staff needed

to be well trained in dealing with such conditions. Audit data showed that 100% of sickle cell patients admitted to North Mid experienced delays in observations and that there were "significant delays in administering pain relief" to them.

Dr Nnenna Osuji, chief executive of North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust, said: "Our community around North Mid is disproportionately impacted by sickle cell disease, and we are determined to meet and sustain the excellent standard of care they deserve. Care of patients with red cell disorders, including both sickle cell anaemia and thalassaemia, is a priority for North Mid, given the prevalence of these conditions in our local population.

"The death of Evan Nathan Smith was a tragedy and I want to reiterate our apology and condolences to his family and to our community whose confidence has been shaken. We have made changes at North Mid as a direct result of Evan's death and are making progress on our comprehensive improvement plan for the service. These include developing an allocated space on one of our wards for patients with sickle cell disease; daily review at our trust-wide site meeting of patients with sickle cell disorder, and enhanced training for staff."

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## Heart of Hale announces the winner of its Local Heroes competition

Tottenham Hale local Verral Paul-Walcott has been announced as the winner of Heart of Hale's Local Heroes competition.

Argent Related, the developer behind the Heart of Hale development in Tottenham Hale, launched its Local Heroes competition in November 2021.

The local community were asked to vote for their local hero and Verral stood out for going 'above and beyond' the call of duty during the pandemic, receiving a record number of nominations.

Verral quickly became a strong advocate for those in poverty, establishing a delivery service with his local cycling group and coordinating ride-outs to distribute food and supplies to local people in need.

When lockdown restrictions hit, Verral used the power of social media to gather support and donations, raising vital funds for the homeless and those with minimal means.

Verral has since begun a laundry service which allows homeless people to get their clothes cleaned for next day pick-up. He also rallied the community to generate 600

Christmas presents for children and has provided free school uniforms, in addition to supplying money to local cafes and shops so that they could provide homeless people with hot food deliveries.

Living by the mantra: 'if you can help someone – do it!', Verral's next mission is to raise enough money to buy a van, which he will use as a mobile foodbank to distribute supplies. A community food membership group is also in the pipeline, which will allow people to access wholesale goods at low rates.

Verral said: "I'd like to thank the



Verral Paul-Walcott

local community who have helped me do this without any funding."

He added: "I'm delighted to have won this competition as it helps me give a voice to those living on the poverty line. Poverty is not something that's often spoken about, it's something that's hidden because people are scared that they are going to be judged, and that's something I want to change.

"Our social groups determine what's important in society, but culturally, we are taught to hide these things. It's time to now speak about it because we've got a tonne of work to do."

Believing that it is the people who make a place, Argent Related will showcase Verral's story on the hoardings that surround the Heart of Hale development in Station Road, outside the North Island site.

Argent Related will also donate to Tottenham Foodbank, chosen by Verral from one of three fantastic local charities doing great work for the Tottenham Hale community.

Tom Goodall, Partner and Head of Residential at Argent Related, said: "We were amazed by the number of entries we received to the Local



Heroes competition, demonstrating just how important communities are in the wake of the pandemic. We are proud to celebrate all of Tottenham Hale's local heroes.

"A huge variety of individuals were nominated, from tennis and football coaches to passionate volunteers – all with their own unique stories. "Verral's story is an inspiration and his dedication to help those in need stood out. We are delighted to be supporting his chosen charity, Tottenham Foodbank."

Head to Heart of Hale's Instagram and Facebook pages @HeartofHaleN17 for more information about Tottenham Hale's Local Heroes competition.

To donate to Tottenham Foodbank: [crowdfunder.co.uk/p/tottenham](https://crowdfunder.co.uk/p/tottenham)





# Tottenham Marshes in





I have lived in Tottenham for nearly two decades now, and I've seen so many changes, good and bad.

I have seen neighbours move in, start families, and new jobs. My husband and I started a family of our own. I have made lots of friends and met many interesting, diverse people here through my original role as a human resources specialist – and then in my role as a mum, autism advocate, and a carer.

I have lived here through the Covid-19 pandemic. Through it all, the green spaces here have been my main stay, especially the beautiful part of Lea Valley near our home, Tottenham Marshes. It has been a respite during many changing seasons over the years – and the pandemic.

When the clamour of life, when the worries of the pandemic weighed too heavy, when hectic responsibilities felt too much – a short walk here helped soothe me. It is my breath of fresh air, my serenity, my peace.

I have taken many photos through the years – in spring, summer, autumn and winter. My favourite time is May when the wild white flowers in Tottenham Marshes overtake the fields and the gentle fragrance scents the air.



# P H O T O G R A P H Y

# n all seasons

Words and photographs  
by Taslima Shahjara



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# The birth of cinema

*Ian Christie discusses how a film studio in Muswell Hill played a pivotal role in pioneering cinema*

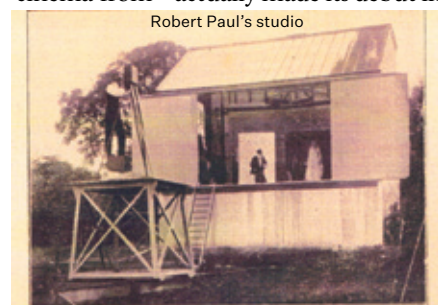


A replica kinoscope Credit Ian Christie

maker, Robert Paul, with his wife Ellen, a former dancer at the Alhambra music hall in Leicester Square. Paul had been commissioned to make Kinetoscope peepshow machines when these were a novelty in 1894. When he saw the queues forming to sample moving pictures, he was hooked, and moved quickly to develop a projector and camera.

He wasn't the only one to see the potential of this new apparatus. Thomas Edison had developed the Kinetoscope, and there were other American pioneers who saw that projecting with a magic lantern was the way forward.

And those Lumiere brothers in Lyon? Like Paul, they were inspired to improve on the Kinetoscope; and their Cinematographe – which is where we get the word 'cinema' from – actually made its debut in



A FULLY EQUIPPED STUDIO, with Scenery and Accessories, for the production of set Scenes, is available at my Muswell Hill Works for the use of Customers by special arrangement.



London on the same day that Paul showed his Theatrograph, in February 1896.

Hold on, you're probably thinking – that doesn't make Robert and Ellen Paul the inventors of cinema? What does, as the new exhibition shows, is their decision to move from central London to the new suburb of Muswell Hill, in search of enough space to make films that would realise the potential of the new medium. Films that told stories, as Paul insisted in his trade advertisements that autumn.

Sadly, almost none of the 80 films that Robert and Ellen made during 1898 have survived. However, one of these, *Come*

*Along, Do!*, inspired by an old music hall song, has been restored to show the direction they were moving in. Paul was already offering his films with colour tinting, so we've added this, as well as animating the lost second shot. And even better, the prudish wife in the film is played by Ellen herself, reprising a role she'd played two years earlier in one of Paul's first films, *The Soldier's Courtship*.

Visitors to the exhibition can see these, as well as a selection of Paul's surviving films, in a special video. These include a glimpse of one of Alexandra Palace's Victorian attractions, a Switchback Railway ride, and a madcap chase through the streets of Muswell Hill as angry citizens chase *The Unfortunate Policemen*.

I've created this exhibition as part of a campaign to encourage the local community to discover more about how cinema started. It wasn't far away, in France or in Hollywood. It was actually in North London, with Robert and Ellen showing other pioneers what was possible. And producers around the world were quick to take note, producing many early remakes. Sadly, Britain has been slow to recognise that we were indeed first off the mark. But then, we don't take movies as seriously as France and America...

**Ian Christie is Professor of Film and Media History at Birkbeck College, University of London. His book, 'Robert Paul and the Origins of British Cinema' is published by Chicago University Press.**

**Visitors to the exhibition at Hornsey Library can collect a free copy of Ian's graphic novel, 'Time Traveller: Robert Paul and the Invention of Cinema'.**

**'Come Along Do! The Lost World of Paul's Animatograph Works, Muswell Hill 1898-1909' is open every afternoon at the Original Gallery, Hornsey Library, Haringey Park, N8 9JA, until 13th March.**

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## From a little spruce, big trees grow

*Why Haringey's young people need to focus on innovative learning*

BY BEE VERONICA MOORE, LEAD PRACTITIONER, WITTY DITTY DESIGNS

Children are the heart of our communities – teach them well and they will thrive and pass on what they've learned to future generations.

Encouraging and nurturing young creative minds and design talent is what I love to do best, it's how I became a designer myself.

I was inspired at an early age by a school trip to a design agency in central London, which was organised by an inspirational teacher; from that moment on, I knew what I wanted to be.

That school trip changed my life. Now I want to do the same for others. My goal is to spark an interest and a lifelong passion for art, design and tech among Tottenham's young people. I want to pass on my many years of design experience to the next generation of young designers and little tech-heads.

Kids today live in a world where smartphones, computer games, and smart systems are a part of their daily lives. They use them every day, yet often don't even know that these creative industries exist, and that this is a world they can be part of, as the designers of the future. The world around them is changing drastically and parents and schools in Haringey need to change with it – so far change has been slow.

“  
*STEAM education helps students develop critical thinking while having fun*  
”

I hope organisations like mine will eventually be integrated into primary schools, and that teaching 3D design and tech will be a part of the curriculum from as early an age as possible.

It's been proven that STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, Maths) careers give children opportunities to break out of poverty, offering them a leg-up into this brand new technologically led economy.

STEAM education helps students develop critical thinking while having fun. It's the development of critical thinking that will be so important to them when being employed in the modern post-pandemic digital world that's available to them.

Schools and practitioners like me just need to plant the seeds and help them grow.

**Witty Ditty Designs' weekly after school Kidz Art & Tech run in the Marcus Garvey Library, every Tuesday, 4–6pm in term times. For more information, head to Instagram: @WittyDittyDesigns**

# From the clay



Credit Turning Earth

## How the Covid lockdowns birthed a new pottery studio in Tottenham

BY TALLIE MAUGHAN, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, TURNING EARTH

When in the UK, I have always lived in Haringey, but in 2013 I opened my first pottery studio, Turning Earth, in Hoxton, with its reputation as a creative haven.

Turning Earth was the first community ceramics studio in the whole of the UK that was run on the US model, where pottery has been a broadly accessible pastime for a long time.

Upon my travels to America, I was amazed that you didn't have to be a professional potter to practice ceramics seriously there. London seemed like an impoverished place to live in without a

well-appointed pottery studio and the creative community that came with it, and I became determined to open one.

Nine years later this interest in ceramics has only grown, with the influence of BBC's *The Great Pottery Throw Down* (which first aired in 2015), and the rise of crafting during the pandemic.

We opened a studio in West Green, in December. It has already proven more popular than we could have expected.

The majority of our members live locally, and are hobbyists – they now finally have ready access to what has been missing for them – a studio they can come to any time they want. This enabling them to put in the many hours of practice that you need to master a craft.

The decision to expand Turning Earth into new communities came during lockdown when it looked like we might go under. Our users in Hoxton and Leyton (our second studio) fought hard to keep the studios afloat, providing

critical financial support before the government loans kicked in. Their generosity really moved me, and all the messages of support helped me to see just what the studio meant to them.

However, many of them couldn't easily return to the studio even as the government lifted restrictions because the commute was just too much in the new world that Covid-19 had created. I made the commitment then that if we survived, we would open Turning Earth studios within an easy walk or cycle of more people.

I spent a lot of my lockdown in Lordship Rec with my toddler and small baby, meeting up with friends for socially distanced walks. While on one of those walks, I saw the West Green building along Downhills Way. It's a beautiful Victorian factory with a saw-toothed roof and even from the street I could see that it would have incredible natural light.

I wouldn't have noticed the building if the pandemic hadn't changed the geography of my life, making me intimate with my local area in a way that I hadn't been before.

I work with two of my brothers and my sister-in-law, who also live in Tottenham, so our team is very invested in this area. It feels fitting that the commitment to bringing Turning Earth into more communities in the wake of the pandemic means that I now have one on my own doorstep. I'm excited to see what having a creative resource like this does to the area.

**For more information:**  
Visit [turningearth.org](http://turningearth.org)

## Haringey Learning Partnership marks Holocaust Memorial Day

Students and staff at Haringey Learning Partnership (HLP – a network of alternative provision schools across Haringey), marked Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 with a series of events.

On the day itself, Thursday, 27th January, staff and students attended a ceremony led by the Mayor of Haringey, Adam Jooe and cabinet member for early years, children and families, Zena Brabazon, at George Meehan House in Wood Green.

Students had the honour of hearing directly from Holocaust survivor, Eva Clarke, who shared her harrowing experiences in a live webcast. Eva's speech made for difficult and emotional listening at times, but was ultimately a tale of inspiration, hope and fortitude in the face of incomprehensible suffering.

In addition, a 40-panel exhibition, which has toured the world, was temporarily installed at Commerce House, one of HLP's schools in Wood Green. The exhibition, titled *Anne Frank: A History for Today*, features photographs of the Frank family and the build up to the Second World War. Maps of significant places,

excerpts of Anne's diary, and quotes from her father were also on show.

Fifteen-year-old Anne died in a Nazi concentration camp in 1945. Her diary was published after the war and has become one of the most famous books of the 20th Century. HLP students from years nine and ten were selected as exhibition guides and mentors following two days of intensive training from the Anne Frank Trust. They are now well informed and able to educate students, staff, families and the wider Haringey community.

Callen, who trained the students, said: "What was clear throughout my time at HLP was that the young people

are capable of so much when given the opportunity, something that was really epitomised by the three girls delivering a fantastic, engaging, informative tour of the exhibition that I think left us all with a greater understanding of how dangerous it is to let prejudice and discrimination go unchallenged."

Cllr Brabazon shared with students in an emotive speech which resonated deeply with those present, how, as a Jewish person, the impact of the Holocaust is still very much present and painful.

Gerry Robinson, executive headteacher, of HLP, said: "Working with the Anne Frank Trust and our local community to help students understand the atrocities of the Holocaust is very important to us at HLP."

"We want our young people to learn from the past and feel empowered to strive for a better, kinder future. We are very proud of the students for being such informative, knowledgeable, and empathetic tour guides, and grateful to the Anne Frank Trust for giving us the opportunity to remember Anne Frank and learn from her story."



HLP student gives a guided tour of the Anne Frank exhibition Credit Haringey Learning Partnership





BY KATHRINE SANTOS, VOLUNTEER, MAKE VOTES MATTER

## Haringey activists protest against elections bill

Several Haringey locals joined the London democracy rally, protesting against the elections bill last month.

The rally on 5th February was organised by national cross-party campaign group Make Votes Matter alongside other democracy organisations. It featured prominent speakers from across the political spectrum, including John McDonnell MP (Labour, and previously Shadow Chancellor), Tom Brake (director of Unlock Democracy), Hina Bokhari AM (Liberal Democrat London Assembly member), Gina Miller (True and Fair party), and Richard Tice (Reform UK).

The rally came amid growing concern over recent attacks on democracy, including plans by the Home Secretary Priti Patel to use first-past-the-post for future mayoral and police and crime commissioner elections. This will require a change in legislation in the elections bill.

Haringey resident, Emily Dyoyska,

who joined the rally with many fellow North London Make Votes Matter supporters, said: "If we want to educate and keep democracy alive, we need to make the system fairer."

If the elections bill is passed then local residents would be forced to vote for the London mayor using first-past-the-post instead of the current supplementary vote where we can rank the top two choices.

Liberal Democrat councillor and London Assembly member Hina Bokhari AM, who was a speaker at the event, said: "When I see the results of our general elections, and those in government, I see the same old faces, same old values and same old ideas."

"The people in power do not want progress, equality or fairness. The system works for them – and keeps them in power. Proportional representation would ensure that the electorate are accurately represented and engaged."

Mark Kieran, CEO of Open Britain, was another speaker at the rally. He said: "If passed, the elections bill would

compromise the independence of the elections watchdog, frustrate the ability of already marginalised groups to cast their votes, and silence campaign organisations that don't tow the government's line. Our system would be a democracy in name only."

Make Votes Matter, in advocating for proportional representation in the House of Commons, is asking people across the UK to oppose the elections bill by signing its petition: 'Less First Past the Post, not more'.

Emma Knaggs, grassroots director at Make Votes Matter said: "We are asking people in London and across the UK to sign our petition 'Less First Past the Post, not more', and send a clear message to the government not to impose this archaic system on future mayoral and Police and crime commissioner elections."

"This would be a backward step for our democracy and leave millions more voters without a voice in politics, being governed by officials they simply didn't vote for."



## The cost-of-living crisis in Tottenham

Tottenham MP, David Lammy urges residents to seek cost-of-living support if needed

While Boris Johnson's partying has occupied the headlines in 2022 so far, it is the cost-of-living crisis facing my constituents that worries me most.

While most households across the UK will feel the pinch this year, families in Tottenham are being pushed toward the edge, if they aren't already over it. Real incomes for the lowest paid 20% have been falling in recent years. The £20 a week cut to Universal Credit combined with rapid inflation, already at its highest rate since the early 1990s, will accelerate this over the coming year.

The poorest families always have to spend a higher proportion of their incomes on the essentials, with limited or no extra money for luxuries. With the cost of basic foods, such as pasta (141%), apples (51%) and baked beans (45%), rising far faster than overall inflation over the last year, many households will simply not be able to cope.

These pressures are before we get to April when energy bills rise by an extraordinary 54%. The price cap increase will see average households paying £700 more per year. The government's plan to address this, most of which is only a five-year loan, is wholly inadequate. Citizen's Advice found that average benefits claimants spent 14% of their income on energy costs in 2002. This had risen to 18% in 2021.

*It is a bleak outlook, and I am very worried for my constituents*

It is projected to be up to 33% next month. Even after receiving government support, one in seven households will be unable to cover the cost. As ever, it will be far more than one in seven households in Tottenham.

The price rises are driven predominantly by soaring wholesale gas prices. Gas currently makes up roughly 40% of the electricity fuel mix and the UK is now in a bind. Had successive governments not failed to underinvest in the transition to renewables, we wouldn't be in this mess. Now we are in crisis and the Conservatives are still failing to go for easy wins. A windfall tax on oil and gas company profits could be used to help pay the poorest families' energy bills, but they just won't do it.

It is a bleak outlook, and I am very worried for my constituents. I must urge everyone reading this to ensure that they take advantage of the support that is available. Get financial advice and check you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to by visiting Haringey Council's 'Here to Help' page. Also visit Haringey Council's website to apply for a council tax reduction. If you are in financial crisis, you can also apply for Haringey Council's support fund and/or a discretionary housing payment.



David Lammy MP

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# Life lessons

Karin Lock reviews *Queenie* by Candice Carty-Williams

**P**ublished in 2019, *Queenie* has been the book on critics' lists (and lips) for the last two years. From word-of-mouth publicity, and numerous sightings on London transport, it is a debut work that demands visibility. The novel's bright cover announces that this story is: "hilarious, compelling, honest" but should we believe the hype?

We meet Queenie initially in the sexual health or 'gynae' clinic. She is being examined by a chatty female doctor, much to her concern: "Wasn't it enough that she could see literally inside me? Did she need to know about my day job?" This is typical Queenie humour: sarky and razor sharp.

Our protagonist works for *The Daily Read* newspaper, where she compiles the entertainment listings. She lives with her white boyfriend Tom in his gentrified Brixton flat, but all is not well. The reader learns that Queenie's emotional baggage or "stuff" has affected their relationship. She has her 'girls' (the Corgis) to give advice but it might be time to move out.

With its realistic characters and tragicomic look at London life, *Queenie* is a novel that many will relate to. Who hasn't trudged to countless shared house viewings, analysing residents to check for sociopathic tendencies? Or spent countless hours trying to make connections with complete strangers on pointless dating apps?

Queenie is full of righteous rage as she contemplates the loss of another young Black

life to state violence: "if the thinking is that someone should be killed for doing something wrong, that thinking is dangerous". When it comes to boundaries though, Queenie struggles. As her life unravels, the self-sabotaging demons of self-doubt and emotional instability take over.

Having split up from Tom (but hoping for a reunion), Queenie meets

“  
*Queenie is a novel that many will relate to*  
”

'dates' whose behaviour range from casual racism to sexual harassment, emotional abuse, and violence. She tries unsuccessfully to use her body to camouflage her emotions. Her symptoms of post-traumatic stress – depression, anxiety, and panic attacks – only worsen.

Here the author wants to confront cultural taboos around counselling. It is Queenie's Jamaican grandfather who encourages her to break the mould and seek help. It is a sobering lesson, offsetting the comic elements within the book. Like all of us, the narrator seeks belonging and respect, but she must first understand her feelings by looking within.

In his 2017 House of Commons diversity speech, the actor Riz Ahmed mentioned that stories are "the currency of our culture". This narrative shows how "identity, politics and mental health intersect" and the importance of being heard, seen, and represented. Queenie's healing journey is a chance for readers to reflect on their own capacity to empathise, understand, and be kind to others.

From its cover, *Queenie* might be categorised as 'popular' fiction (a label often applied to women's writing) but this is not a negative description. As a modern and intimate exploration of race and gender politics, *Queenie* contains many uncomfortable truths. It is both necessary and life-affirming, and on its way to becoming a classic. Watch out for the eight-part mini-series coming to Channel 4 later this year.



## Youth hub

Neil Littman  
Winchmore Hill N21

Dear HCP

**I**would like to comment on the story about the new youth hub in Issue 4. Several years ago I was listening to a phone-in on *LBC* and the caller (who may have been a police officer or community worker) mentioned that he thought it was very short-sighted of Haringey Council to be shutting down youth facilities to save money. He mentioned a figure of about £2–3million in estimated savings. He also said that the then new Mayor of London (Sadiq Khan) was not happy about this issue.

He pointed out that there was the hidden cost of every young life lost to either knife or gun crime – often gang related – and that the cost of each death was estimated at £1m to the community. It was a very grim statistic.

For the record, it was about the same as the total amount of a road death if caused by a car crash – a statistic I learned about on a speed awareness course.

I have lost count of the number of reported deaths in Haringey which could potentially have been saved by keeping the facilities for young people open such as clubs or boxing and sports activity centres. I even remember a while back about a centre opening which didn't even have enough money in the budget for essential equipment.

Spending money on a new youth hub won't turn the clock back but it is at least a step in the right direction.

## Policing and election bills

Keith Hubbard  
St Ann's

Dear HCP

**O**n 5th February, Haringey residents took part in the Parliament Square rally (organised by Make Votes Matter), protesting against the policing and election bills.

These bills restrict the right to protest and prevent organisations combining to oppose issues or proposals.

There will be reversion to first past the post to mayoral and police commissioner elections and to the new mayoral elections.

Voter I.D. will restrict people's ability to vote. It would be good if Haringey people can make their objections known. Please write to your MP or as there is cross party (including Conservative) opposition in the Lords; if possible, make your support known there.

Thank you.



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