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Chloe and Kaycee at Grow Tottenham Credit Damilola Lemomu

# Vital community group pushed out by property developer

BY ALICE KEMP-HABIB

A community group is being evicted from its space in Tottenham Hale, as property developers prepare to build on the site.

Homegrown in Tottenham has run a community kitchen, food bank and Saturday school from a meanwhile-use project called Grow Tottenham since 2018. They provide advocacy and advice to those who need it, assisting with application forms and appeals from the site in Ashley Road, N17. Throughout August, Homegrown hosted a weekly summer school, including a film club, pop-up classroom and cookery lessons. During the cost of living crisis, it has proved an invaluable resource for those on a low-income in particular.

But in July, Homegrown – alongside

countless other businesses, community groups and individuals who use Grow Tottenham – received an eviction notice from Projekt, which manages the site on behalf of the housing association Notting Hill Genesis. Collectively, they were told to evacuate by 29th August.

When HCP visited Homegrown in mid-August, the mood was sombre. While the young people ate lunch (delicious rice and vegetables rustled up by the founder, Rose Dakuo), business owners were busy clearing their belongings and dismantling the space piece-by-piece. It had become clear that the summer school would have to wrap up earlier than planned.

Rose said: “We were planning to do this right up until the kids went back to school. I called two parents this morning. When I told them, one was crying on the phone. She said

‘my kids are going to eat less now.’”

Grow Tottenham was only ever supposed to be temporary; founded by the social enterprise Grow London, it was initially given use of the site for one year. As development plans were delayed, this was extended to four. Until July of this year, Grow and its users were told the site would likely be extended for another couple of years. In June, Homegrown even signed a tenancy agreement with the intention of using a larger part of the site. Soon after that, however, the eviction notice was served.

Emma Djilali helps to run Homegrown, and was facilitating a film workshop when HCP visited. She said: “After signing the agreement, we didn’t hear back [from Projekt] for about three weeks. When we finally heard back, the tenancy start date had passed and were being evicted.

“People can’t just leave moving

out until the last week, so business owners have been pressed to start deconstructing this site in advance. That’s making the space gradually less usable for us.”

When HCP visited the summer school, a group of teenagers were watching *Precious* in a makeshift cinema. It was due to be taken down later that week, said Emma. The kitchen, where Rose prepared meals and taught cookery skills, was next on the list. The pair had expected Notting Hill Genesis to rehome them once Grow closed down, and the housing association did allude to a potential space in Enfield earlier this year. But Rose and Emma’s work is specific to Tottenham Hale. Besides, they had barely heard a peep out of Notting Hill Genesis or Projekt since Grow’s eviction notice was served, they told HCP.

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ABOUT

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 Tottenham Photography Club's annual exhibition opens at Lordship Hub on Saturday, 3rd September. Below: Amelia and James playing at Lordship Rec, taken by their father Dawid Gibek



AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE EDITOR

HELLO AND WELCOME TO ISSUE 11. In this month's paper you'll find on-the-ground reporting regarding North Mid's busiest summer ever. On page 6, James Cracknell investigates what this means for A&E wait times, and the devastating impact it is having on cancer patients. On page 7, the CEO of All People All Places outlines the nuances of

homelessness in Haringey, while Tottenham resident Tom Winward discusses how a DIY book swap is bringing residents on his street together. 7th September marks a year since Tice Cin released her award-winning debut novel, *Keeping the House*. On pages 8 and 9, she reflects on the local people and places that made it all happen, and her upcoming second book. Accompanying the story is a beautiful exclusive image, taken by Richard Dixon (aka @lostintottenham on Instagram).

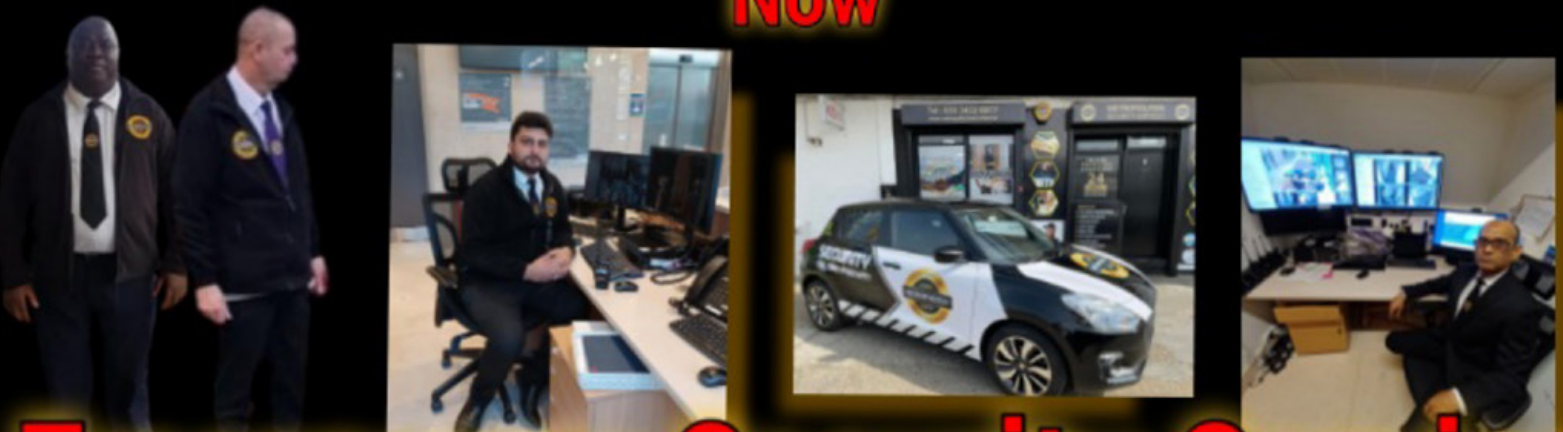
On page 13, Olivia Opara previews the inaugural Markfield Road Festival. The three-day event, which builds on the area's annual open studios, is jam-packed with art shows, panel talks, creative workshops and live performances, so be sure to check it out from 9th–11th September. You don't have to wait a month to get high-quality stories related

Alice Kemp-Habib

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## Homegrown in Tottenham was evicted with barely two months notice

Formerly a car mechanics depot, Grow Tottenham was established on land owned by Notting Hill Genesis in 2018. Grow transformed it into a community garden and event space, which also included studios, a community kitchen, cafe and carpentry workshop before deconstruction began. Alongside Homegrown, there were a host of businesses, community groups, artists and individuals that used the space. The short-notice eviction has had a profound impact on all of them.

Andy Lockwood runs an upcycling business, repairing discarded items and selling them at affordable prices. He rented a lot towards the back of the site, which was piled high with washing machines, fridges and bikes, ready to be fixed and resold.

He said: "Because of the short notice, I haven't got time to sell them, or to clean them or fix them. I've barely even got time to store them."

"There's no triviality about it. I've been going all the way to Wales. I was in Norwich yesterday, travelling around the country seeing who might have land to keep it all on."

Andy was stuck between a rock and a hard place; pay up to £3,000 for a storage

The last day of Homegrown in Tottenham's summer school Credit Damilola Lemomu



*"Tottenham needs more community spaces, not less"*

container, plus thousands more to lift it and rent new land, or discard years worth of accumulated objects. Meanwhile Crop Drop – a local fruit and vegetable delivery service – was forced to merge with the Hackney-based scheme Growing Communities due to the pressure of relocating.

Paul McGann, the founder of Grow Tottenham, said: "You'd hope with these big developments, they'd give you years notice. It's not like these things move fast."

"Then it wouldn't have been this traumatic experience, where everyone's really struggling to find spaces and carry on delivering services and keep their projects going."

"Tottenham needs more community space, not less."

A Notting Hill Genesis spokesperson said: "All tenants were aware of the short-term nature of the tenancy. This was originally due to be for one year but we were pleased to be able to extend that to four years."

"We have been in regular contact with tenants regarding potential dates for vacating the site and provided notice as agreed. We have provided an alternative site for storage of Grow Tottenham's shipping containers for the next year, free of charge, and their volunteers can also access the site to harvest crops this autumn, despite their notice expiring."

"We are working closely with Haringey Council to find an interim space for Homegrown and will keep in contact with

them to ensure they are considered should a suitable space become available in the new development."

Grow was in difficulty prior to the eviction. The social enterprise struggled during the lockdown, after which rent was hiked significantly, and Paul told HCP that they were facing bankruptcy due to a change in business rates.

As for Rose, she's been here before: Homegrown was evicted from a community centre in Northumberland Park before relocating to Ashley Road. When HCP asked what would happen next, she became visibly distressed. Given the breadth of services Homegrown provides, and how rooted they are in Tottenham Hale, the team had no alternative venues in mind.

She said: "After Northumberland Park I had to move everything into my house. I was running the food bank from home."

"If I do that again, it's going to put my kids into a mental breakdown. My son is not talking to me because he felt like he didn't have a home at that time."

The new development on Ashley Road will provide 353 residential homes, half of which Notting Hill Genesis says will be affordable. There are also plans for 3600sqm of non-residential space, comprising creative studios, a nursery, retail units and a café.

Paul is looking for alternative sites for Grow in Tottenham or, failing that, Haringey more widely. Regardless, if something doesn't happen fast, Homegrown – alongside many other organisations – may be homeless for the foreseeable future.

## Wood Green shooting: man charged with murder

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

### 22-year-old accused of killing Camilo Palacio in Wood Green in July



Victim Camilo Palacio  
Abass Ahmed, aged 22 of Tom

Dove Place in Tottenham, has been charged with murder. He appeared at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court on Friday, 5th August.

A further six people have also been charged as part of the investigation into the fatal shooting on Sunday, 24th July, including a 16-year-old boy who cannot be named for legal reasons.

A 64-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of murder. A 25-year-old woman and a 17-year-old boy were also arrested in connection to this case. All three have been released under investigation. An 18-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of murder and bailed pending further enquiries until late August.

A murder investigation was launched after police were called to reports of a shooting in High Road, Wood Green at around 9:30pm on Sunday, 24th July. Officers found Camilo Palacio, who was from Enfield, with a gunshot wound and he was sadly pronounced dead at the scene.

Anyone with information is asked to call the incident room on 020 8358 0400. You can also call 101 quoting 7238/24Jul. To remain anonymous, contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



## Crouch End bar facing closure after alcohol licence revoked

### Kiss The Sky in Park Road had been the subject of scores of complaints from local residents

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY  
REPORTER

Kiss The Sky, in Park Road, has been told to pay £10,000 within 28 days after a judge upheld the council's decision to revoke its premises licence following complaints over noise, antisocial behaviour, and the venue operating beyond permitted hours.

The council's licensing subcommittee agreed to revoke the licence, which allowed alcohol sales and entertainment, in July last year, but the bar was able to carry on operating after

appealing against the decision. The council said it served a noise abatement notice after complaints against the bar continued.

Kiss The Sky owner Tony Ray claimed that when the business tried to arrange meetings, the council either declined or failed to show up.

Tony said: "We spent thousands trying to please them through soundproofing measures. Mistakes were made, admittedly, but not enough to push them to close the bar and punish the wider community as a whole, who now have no nightlife in the area."

He added: "We begged the council for solutions

and they offered none. We made several suggestions to the council but they ignored all. They wanted a ghost town and now they have it."

The council said it had issued warnings to Kiss The Sky before its licence was revoked.

Dana Carlin, cabinet member for house services, private renters and planning, said supporting local businesses was "key to strengthening Haringey's local economy and this was no different for Kiss The Sky", adding that the council had tried to "engage with Mr Ray several times and help him obtain his licence as well as support him throughout this process".

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## Plan for the Best: Carers First launch new emergency plan pack in Haringey

## Carers First

If you care for a relative or friend, an emergency plan can provide you with peace of mind that even when you can't be there, the person you look after gets the support they need.

Making a plan ensures that when you need someone to step in at short notice, all the vital information needed to best care for your relative or friend is already clearly outlined and close to hand. This could be medications, dietary requirements, mobility needs or even behavioural concerns.

A carer's emergency can be a period of illness, travel disruption, or an unexpected childcare issue – unavoidable events which can happen at any time. Despite this, many carers in Haringey have yet to make an emergency plan. Carers First is rolling out emergency plan packs



for unpaid carers across Haringey – containing a handy template to help you structure a plan tailored to the needs of the person you care for. The emergency plan pack also includes top tips for planning, a

pen, stickers, and a handy folder to keep the emergency plan secure. Additional copies of the plan template can be downloaded from the website.

Alison Taylor, Chief Executive

of Carers First, says "There are over 20,000 people in Haringey caring for a relative or friend who wouldn't be able to manage without their support. However, events or emergencies can happen at any time. It's vitally important that if they're not able to be there for the person they look after, someone else is contacted and provided with all the information they need. Carers say this gives them and their relative, or friend, reassurance, and comfort."

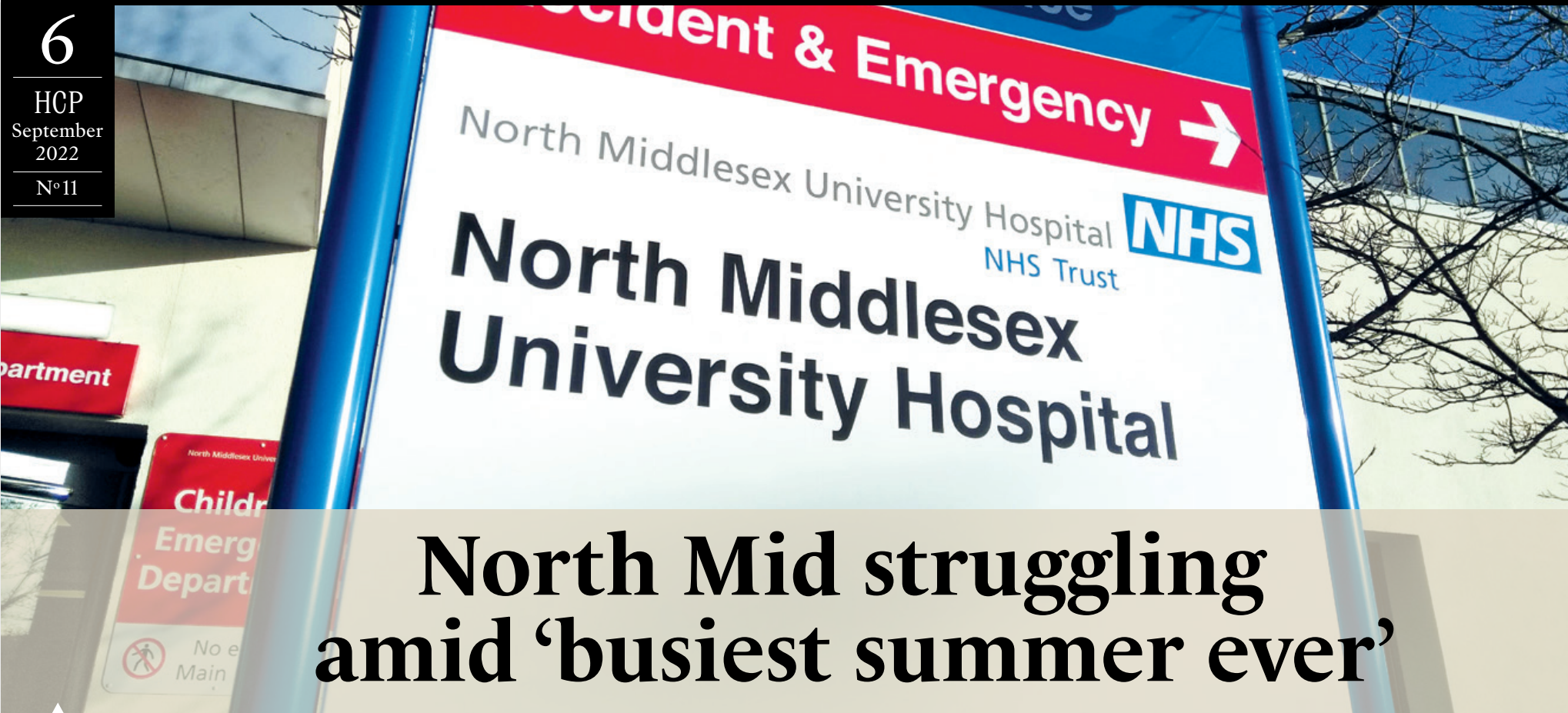
The emergency plan pack is free and exclusively for carers in the Haringey area. A limited number are available, so requesting one early is recommended.

To request an emergency plan pack, scan the QR code


[carersfirst.org.uk](https://carersfirst.org.uk)

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The A&E at North Mid has recently seen record-high attendance levels

# North Mid struggling amid ‘busiest summer ever’

Record numbers seen at A&E as hospital requests help to tackle its massive cancer treatment backlog

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

North Middlesex Hospital has seen its “busiest summer ever” as it continues to struggle with a growing waiting list and soaring A&E attendances.

At a board meeting in August, senior managers at North Mid explained the challenges the Edmonton hospital continues to face in the wake of the pandemic, since when the NHS trust has fallen a long way behind in a number of key performance measures.

May this year was the busiest-ever month for the accident and emergency (A&E) department at North Mid, with 610 patients being seen every day, while June was the second-busiest month ever seen. The A&E staff team is designed to cope with no more than 535 patients per day, leading to exceptionally long waits for treatment.

The main NHS performance target for A&E departments is for 95% of patients to be discharged, admitted or transferred within four hours of arrival – but the percentage at North Mid in June was only 65.8%.

Mark Lam, board chair of North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust, told the meeting: “I want to acknowledge the tremendous operational pressure we are experiencing and, although that is not unusual, this is among the busiest – if not the busiest – summers we have seen. “I want to thank colleagues for their ongoing focus and professionalism.”

Dr Surendra Deo, a non-executive director at North Mid, said the exceptionally high A&E attendance numbers were being driven by the current difficulty in patients being able to access GP appointments, leading many to seek help at A&E instead.

“There is an access problem in primary care,” Dr Deo said. “What are we doing as a trust, as a partnership, to address this? Because it is not going away. I don’t think it is sustainable – it might well get worse.”

and said: “The trust was compliant against two out of the nine cancer performance standards. The largest patient backlogs exist in colorectal, urology, and gynaecology [...] overall, it is expected that improved performance will manifest once the backlog of patients in a 62-day breach position have been treated.”

One major factor in the hospital’s struggles is bed occupancy. When “core beds” are all in use, the hospital instead utilises “escalation” beds. The report revealed that when measuring bed occupancy as a percentage of core beds, the occupancy rate as of May was 105.8%.

Mark Vaughan, North Mid’s director of human resources and organisational development, said the pressures were taking a toll on staff. He said: “There are a lot of staff who are pretty deflated and knackered and just see a relentless pressure.

“The way we motivate people is with empowerment, which gives them satisfaction when they come to work, knowing they have that control.”

Mark Lam added: “The report does reflect the extraordinary pressures we are under, but also the hard work of our team in managing that pressure.

“With the level of pressures we are experiencing, they no longer feel extraordinary. Previously these were seasonal, but now it is a perpetual state.

North Mid was one of the worst-hit hospitals during the Covid-19 pandemic, but there is now a new public health emergency that has been declared by the World Health Organisation, in relation to the recent monkeypox outbreak. Up to the start of August, 32 patients had been treated for monkeypox at North Mid, but only three required admission for symptomatic care and all of those recovered fully.

I’ve always been captivated by the little book swaps that popped up around Stratford and Walthamstow in recent years, and when I moved into a quiet street in Tottenham Hale I jumped at the opportunity to build my own. I felt powerless in the face of huge challenges like climate change and the cost of living crisis, but the book swap was something fun and useful that I could make a positive impact with.

I’m not a carpenter or a builder, but I had a clear idea of what I wanted – a place for people on my street to share books. It didn’t need to be fancy, it just needed to be a container that kept the rain off and the books safe.

I wanted to minimise my environmental impact by using recycled materials wherever possible, and a shabby wooden cabinet that someone had abandoned by the side of the road was exactly what I needed. I took it home to give it a new life as a community book swap.

There was a drawer in the top of the cabinet that I didn’t want to use, so I removed the handle, glued and nailed it shut, and painted the word ‘BOOKS’ in big letters over it. There was no going back now!

The biggest challenge was figuring out how to weatherproof it. It had a flat top, so any rain would just soak through, warping the wood and damaging the books inside. I enlisted the help of my partner’s father, who had a shed full of wooden offcuts and some old roofing material. I fixed some angled wood to the flat top and covered it in waterproof rubber – “that should let the rainwater run off nicely,” I thought.

With the drawer secured and the roof attached, it was time to

“Sharing stories has brought me closer to the community”

get it out into the street. A neighbour suggested inviting residents to help decorate it, so I sent out a message in the local WhatsApp group with a date for people to come and launch it. I picked up some outdoors wood paint, stencils and brushes, and sat by the road, encouraging passers-by to make their mark. Plenty of people stopped to say hello, chat, and add a splash of paint. By the end of the day the cupboard had transformed from a shabby, abandoned box to a brightly coloured book swap.

I propped the cupboard on some bricks to keep it dry, added some books to kick things off, and left it on a patch of grass beside the road for people to use. Just a couple of days later I was thrilled to see someone perusing the books, taking one to read and leaving another in its place. Today there are new books appearing all the time. From sci-fi novels to autobiographies and children’s stories; it’s become the go-to place for local people to share their favourite reads.

There’s something magical about seeing people get so much use and joy out of this little cupboard by the side of the road. Sharing stories has brought me closer to the community, and if it has inspired even just one person to give something back in a similar way then I’ll consider that mission accomplished.

Thomas launching his book swap, which local residents helped to paint Credit: Olivia Davis

help of my partner’s father, who had a shed full of wooden offcuts and some old roofing material. I fixed some angled wood to the flat top and covered it in waterproof rubber – “that should let the rainwater run off nicely,” I thought.

With the drawer secured and the roof attached, it was time to

“Sharing stories has brought me closer to the community”

are caught in the huge backlog and are left in limbo without access to money or the right to work. For many, crises are not one-off events to be overcome. They are lives lived in a perpetual state of crisis, lurching from one to the next. Such people are clinging on, not for hours or days, but months and years until they can cling on no longer. It is only then that the immediate presenting issue becomes one of homelessness across our borough.

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“The thing about Haringey is, you never feel completely alone”

A year on from the publication of her prizewinning novel, *Keeping the House*, Tice Cin reflects on the local people and places that made it all happen

When Tice Cin, 27, was a teenager, she would tail the sound system DJ Gladdy Wax around community centres and party venues. “He was one of my favourite DJs, so up until I was like, 25, I was running after him, cleaning up wires and just being a bit of a fan girl,” she says. Such experiences found their echo in Tice’s debut novel, *Keeping the House*, which celebrates its first anniversary on 7th September.

In the year since its publication, *Keeping the House* has deservedly racked up numerous prizes, including the London Writers Award for Literary Fiction and the Society of Author’s Somerset Maugham Award. Set in and around north-east London, it delves into the area’s drug trade and straddles three generations of the same Turkish-Cypriot family. Damla, a young girl who is coming of age on Broadwater Farm, is the novel’s beating heart. Meanwhile, her grandmother, Makbule, is spiralling into dementia and her mother, Ayla, is plotting to import a stash of heroin concealed in Turkish cabbages. Having grown up in Tottenham and Enfield, Tice’s novel is a treasure trove of local knowledge. There are pleasing hat-tips to the historic Swan pub, long-closed night clubs like Eros and The Ritzy and Broadwater Farm Community Centre, where Damla and her best friend, Cemile, dip in and out of a sound system clash in the novel’s closing chapters.

As a Turkish-Cypriot Londoner, such experiences have been fundamental to Tice’s perception of community. “The thing about Tottenham and Haringey is, you never feel completely alone,” she tells me, perching on the edge of a sunken armchair. “I come from a family where we were kind of divorced from our own community – the Turkish community – but there were always other communities that would take you in. Sound system culture is so monumental in Sound system culture is so monumental in Tottenham.”

Like Damla, Tice grew up in the Broadwater Farm area. She moved to Enfield as a teenager, and went on to study English literature at Reading, before transferring to Northampton. But the capital soon called her home; Tice returned to pursue a masters at University College London.

“Going to university outside of London I lost this whole safety net that I didn’t realise I had. Not being able to go into a chicken shop was a real problem. I was just shocked that people were living that way,” she says, only half joking.

Today, we are sitting in The Trampery, a co-working space in Northumberland Park. It’s quiet but for the constant whoosh of buses from the High Road outside. A year on from the publication of *Keeping the House*, she is reflecting on the local people and places that made it all happen. “I wrote some chapters at Blooming Scent,” she says, motioning to the cafe next door. The owner, Gina Moffatt, would regularly ply her with bowls of puff puff, Tice tells me. Other chapters came to life in Aseptic Studios, a creative agency based in Tottenham Hale. Richard Dixon (Tice’s former schoolmate and co-owner of the studio) shot the book’s lustrous blue cover, too.

She credits Bruce Castle Park and Lordship Rec for “soothing” her during lockdown (when much of the book was written) and LA Fresh Nails in West Green Road for providing some much-needed R&R. “It felt nice to schedule my self care time while also feeling like I was feeding back into the local economy,” she says. “Suddenly I was justifying getting my nails done and in different ways.”

Giving back to her community is high on Tice’s list of priorities. “It’s easy to release something about an area, to tell a story about it and then run off,” she says. Tice works for the feminist book publisher, Tilted Axis Press, three days a week, and recently convinced them to set up shop in The Trampery. “They had a completely mobile team, but I’m encouraging us to have a tangible attachment to the local area and do some deep community engagement,” she says. Tice also manages a locally-based rapper, Domo Gorille, and moonlights as a DJ and producer (she can regularly be found honing her craft at Pirate Studios in Tottenham).

Looking forward, Tice has her manicured hands well and truly full. She is working on two short films, as well as an EP to accompany *Keeping the House*. Out in November, it features a host of local names, including the renowned producer Acekeyz, who has worked with the likes of Stormzy, Wretch 32 and Labrinth. A German version of the novel is coming out in October, too, and a TV adaptation is currently in the works. A second book – about a female grime producer in North London who is going through heartbreak – is in the pipeline, too.

In the long term, though, Tice’s focus is decidedly more local. She would like to open a community hub, where young people from the borough can receive mentorship and skills training.

“I have a lot of jobs, but it’s not because I want to. Of course I want to stretch out and inhabit a lot of spaces creatively, but a lot of it is just because I’m hustling and trying to find a way to monetise things,” she says. “I would really like to have the income to pump back into the area.”

# KEEPING THE HOUSE

## Tice Cin



# Five minutes with Emeka Frederick

Emeka Frederick co-founded Chuku's Nigerian Tapas Restaurant with his sister, Ify in 2020. Here, the restaurateur talks egusi, eba and Tottenham's Electric Grubb

**Which shops do you rely on?**  
West Green Halal Meat for local fruit and vegetables. Our neighbours are a dream, too; we regularly borrow the trolley from Martinez Butchers to unload after a cash and carry run; Blighty coffee shop and the Turkish restaurant Candir receive many early morning deliveries on our behalf, and Las Delicias de Juancho next door are there for our Colombian coffee fixes.

**Where do you go for a good time?**  
We regularly host team socials and last time out we went to Rollernation. We had been wanting to go as a team since we opened, so it was great to finally make it happen. I also love exercising outdoors at Finsbury Park or Lordship Recreation Ground.

**Why do you love Haringey?**  
Community spirit, green spaces among the hustle and bustle, plus, it's always interesting!

**What's your secret Haringey spot?**  
The Engine Room in Tottenham Hale. If you don't live in Hale Village, or stumble across it like I did a few years back, you wouldn't know this community space existed. They have an array of programmes to engage, educate and entertain young people – from toddlers to teens. I even had the opportunity to be



Emeka with his sister, Ifeyinwa

a masterchef at their kids' cookery classes last Easter. They have a café and a church for the community and the team behind

the scenes are just amazing; they're a caring group and personify what I love about being in Tottenham.

**Where in the borough would you recommend for a first date?**  
Chuku's. A couple had their first date with us in 2020 and had their wedding reception at Chuku's in 2021, true story. So, single people – our Nigerian tapas can help you find love!

**Where do you get your culture fix?**  
Food from Electric Grubb on Tottenham High Road and vibes at The Bash Restaurant on West Green Road.

**What food sums up happiness?**  
Egusi and eba. My sister and I grew up eating this – it's a popular Nigerian dish and one of our childhood favourites. Egusi is a moorish stew made from melon seeds and eba is made from grated cassava. They are the definition of comfort food. At Chuku's our egusi bowl has been recommended by *Time Out* and night after night is our best selling dish.

**What are you working on at the moment?**  
Great question! A local delivery service, an in-house supperclub series, new brunch packages, happy hour specials, a live event for Nigerian Independence Day (on Sunday, 1st October) and building our Tik Tok profile – we're new, so follow us @chukusldn

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# Bruce Grove gets a makeover

▲

The mural wraps around the wall lining the pedestrian pathway connecting Holcombe Road to Stoneleigh Road

Credit: Stephen Furner

BY ALICE KEMP-HABIB

A stunning new wall mural marks the beginning of wider plans to revamp the area

A

new mural celebrating the identity of Bruce Grove has been created in Holcomb Road. The colourful artwork was designed by nine young people from Bruce Grove Youth Space, whose names were incorporated into the final piece. It was then painted by 19 volunteers from the local community alongside artists Matt Dosa and Anna Nicolo (both of whom recently designed murals in Wood Green). This comes as part of a council-led initiative, Pride in Bruce Grove, to enliven public spaces in the town

“

*As a local artist and resident I found the project very rewarding and I am very grateful for the opportunity to create an artwork for my own neighbourhood*

”

centre. It is the first of several planned projects in the area, which aim to make Bruce Grove greener and safer, while providing opportunities and support for local communities and businesses. Following consultation with locals, the alleyway behind Scotland Green is set to be revamped with planters, gobo lighting and signposts to local green spaces, too. Meanwhile, a glass-tiled mosaic is planned for the wall below Bruce Grove Railway Bridge. The mosaic has been designed by four members of the community in collaboration with Anna, and is intended to be an ‘ideological map’ celebrating the diversity and history of the area. The tapestry-style mosaic includes nods to Walter Tull – a former Tottenham resident and one of English football’s first Black players – as well

as historic buildings such as Bruce Castle. Anna said: “I had a great time installing the [Holcomb Road] mural, working alongside Matt Dosa, community volunteers and young people from the Bruce Grove Youth Space. “As a local artist and resident I found the project very rewarding and I am very grateful for the opportunity to create an artwork for my own neighbourhood. I am really looking forward to the installation of the mosaic under Bruce Grove Railway Bridge.” A floor mural is planned for the crossing outside Bruce Grove Station, however this has been paused while TfL assesses its potential impact on pedestrians and road users. The council has been granted planning permission to install the mosaic under the bridge at Bruce Grove Station, and is obtaining final Network Rail approvals in order to progress.

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LISTINGS

Food & Drink

**Crouch End Gin Festival**  
Saturday, 3rd September, 12–4pm and 5–9:30pm  
Channing School Playing Field, Stanhope Road N6 5AW  
  
Sip on London’s best G&Ts while raising money for a good cause. Funds from the festival will go towards the Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM), as well as several local charities. A host of North London-based distilleries will be in attendance, including Sacred, Half Hitch and Hanbury.  
**Tickets £10**  
**Visit** [crouchendginfestival.com](https://crouchendginfestival.com)

Fun Day

**Highgate Wood Heritage Community Day**  
Sunday, 4th September, 11–4pm  
Highgate Wood, Muswell Hill Road N10 3JN  
  
The free, annual fun day is back for the first time since Covid-19 cancellations. Visitors will be treated to live music, craft and conservation stalls, a dog show, visits by local beekeepers and much more.  
**Free entry**  
**Visit** [heath-hands.org.uk/whatson](https://heath-hands.org.uk/whatson)

Tour

**Markfield Beam Engine and Museum Open Day**  
Saturday, 17th and Sunday, 18th September from 11am  
Markfield Road, Tottenham N15 4RB  
  
The Markfield Beam Engine was built in 1886 to pump sewage from Tottenham towards the Beckton Sewage Treatment Works. Now, the museum that houses it is hosting a series of open days with guided tours and activities for children. The beam engine will be turned on for visitors at various points throughout the weekend.  
**Free entry, donations welcome**  
**Visit** [mbeam.org/visit](https://mbeam.org/visit)

Yoga

**Solar Yoga Sessions**  
Wednesday, 7th September, 6:30–8pm  
South Harringay School, Mattison Road N4 1BD  
  
Taught by Jaqui Wan, solar yoga combines standard yoga poses and stretches with calisthenic conditioning, acroyoga and gymnastics. The session aims to leave you feeling balanced and sound-minded, and you can join in-person or online.  
**Tickets £12 drop-in, £10 concessions, £7 online**  
**Visit** [jaquiwan.com](https://jaquiwan.com)

Nature

**25 Springfield Avenue Open Garden**  
Sunday, 11th September, 2–6pm  
25 Springfield Avenue, Muswell Hill N10 3SU  
  
Part of the National Garden Scheme’s Open Gardens initiative, this secluded green space in Muswell Hill will be open to the public for one day only. Enjoy perennial planted beds, shrubs and climbers, as well as a paved terrace laden with sunny flower beds, tub water features and pots.  
**Tickets £4 for adults, free for children**  
**Visit** [ngs.org.uk](https://ngs.org.uk)

Festival

**Haringey Pride**  
Saturday, 10th September, 12–7pm  
Ducketts Common, Wood Green, N15 3DX  
  
Haringey is celebrating the borough’s LGBTQ+ community this September. There will be stalls and live music and performances from various acts, including the US singer Kym Mazelle (known as the ‘First Lady of House Music’) as the headline. There will also be a pride parade and a licensed bar from the guys at The Goodness Brewery.  
**Free entry**  
**Visit** [haringeypride.org](https://haringeypride.org)

Market

**Tottenham Flower and Produce Show**  
Saturday, 10th September, 11am–5pm  
Lordship Lane, Tottenham N17 6NU  
  
The Tottenham Flower and Produce Show is an annual event organised by the Friends of Lordship Rec. The day is all about community food growing, healthy living and showcasing the crafting talents of local residents. Expect home-grown produce, baked goods and a host of workshops for the family (including flower crown making and a pinhole camera project).  
**Free entry**  
**Visit** [bit.ly/3KekkJG](https://bit.ly/3KekkJG)

Exhibition

**Charlie Phillips Archive Exhibition**  
Friday, 2nd – Tuesday, 6th September  
Muswell Hill Gallery, 21 High Street, Hornsey N8 7QB  
  
This post-Carnival exhibition celebrates Notting Hill through the lens of one of Britain’s great photo-portraitists, Charlie Phillips (his work has previously been shown at the Museum of London and the V&A). The pop-up show features ten images documenting the African-Caribbean community in the area, taken from his book ‘Notting Hill in the Sixties’.  
**Free entry**  
**Instagram** [@muswellhillgallery](https://@muswellhillgallery)

Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in Haringey. For next month’s listings, email the details of your event to [hcp@socialspider.com](mailto:hcp@socialspider.com) by Monday, 19th September

# Arts festival comes to Tottenham

BY OLIVIA OPARA

Markfield Road is preparing for three days of creative fun

A

new festival celebrating the local creative scene through art, music and discussion is coming to South Tottenham. Markfield Road Festival will span three days, from the 9th–11th of September, and is set to feature a host of local artists and performers. The festival builds on the area’s annual open studios – now in their twentieth year – and is being co-hosted by four local enterprises; Gaunson Creative Studios, The Cove Studio, Ten87 recording studio and Craving cafe. First on the line-up is a mini poetry festival from Spoken, a Tottenham-based platform which aims to create community-based cultural conversations. The poetry performances will take place at The Cove Studio

(a previously disused warehouse), from 3pm until late on Friday, 9th September. Various artworks and activities will take place at Gaunson Creative Studios throughout the festival. Across Saturday and Sunday, the Haringey-based artist and musician Steve Folk (aka Steven Thompson), will be ‘live painting’ a large-scale abstract piece. An installation of latex works by the local artist Patrick Jones will be on show, as will an immersive installation by the travel photographer Ethel Davies, who brings photographs taken with Victorian technology into the 21st Century. Ethel said: “The idea is that there is another viewpoint, arguably imaginary, that exists, merely by virtue of seeing the world differently. I feel it’s an almost undiscovered art form that I want the onlooker to appreciate.” Malene Oddershede Bach, creative director of Gaunson Creative Studios and The Cove, said: “We wanted to create something that families from

the community can go to and explore the creative scene in one space and crowd.” A carnival workshop is set to take place at Earlsmead School, meanwhile a range of panel discussions at The Cove are intended to introduce creative careers to the community. On Saturday, for example, ‘Being Independent’ will explore the mechanics of independent record labels and the music industry. Later that day, Dreph – the artist best known for his large-scale street portraits – will host a Q&A. Throughout the festival there will be live screenings of Monika Tobel’s work. The Tottenham-based interdisciplinary artist commonly explores ecology, interspecies connection, and communication. And, to top it all off, Ten87 and Craving will play host to live music and DJ sets until late on Saturday and Sunday. Local musicians including Lux Jury, Island Fox and Ben Murphie are all set to perform, while the hip-hop duo Backyard Bully are headlining on Sunday night.

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Backyard Bully will headline Markfield Road Festival on Sunday evening

Credit: Backyard Bully

ARTS



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**Mains**  
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Burrata, Heritage Tomato and Summer Flowers  
Pork Rump Roast Chicken with Pearl barley & Sweetcorn  
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## Shady business

Dear HCP

'Trees for Streets' sounds like a great idea ('250 new street trees planted across Haringey', HCP, August 2022), but in practice it will achieve little. Small street trees provide no shade, so do nothing to mitigate the urban-heat-island effect in summer. And because of their size, they take little CO2 out of the atmosphere and produce little oxygen. Big trees – especially mature big trees – do all these things, and we have plenty in Haringey.

The problem is, the council's tree surgeons pollard (hard-prune) these trees each year, damaging their potential to produce leaves. No doubt the council is running scared of insurance companies, who will claim that big trees in full leaf cause subsidence to houses nearby. But we need collectively to decide whether or not we are serious about trying to mitigate climate warming. If we are, then the simplest, cheapest and most effective thing we can do is to let our existing street trees grow as nature intended.

Andrew Barr  
Muswell Hill

## Total garbage

Dear HCP

Regarding Angelo's Tsangarides' letter about bin collections (HCP, August 2022), I couldn't care less about general waste bin collections. I have no idea when my bin day is and it would probably take me a year to fill my bin anyway. Almost none of our day-to-day waste needs to go in the general waste. However my efforts to recycle are frequently thwarted by non-collection of my recycling. I have lived in my current home for six weeks and my recycling has only been collected on the scheduled day twice. I shouldn't have to email Veolia every time I want my bin emptied.

Sarah Moore  
Tottenham

## Time to act

Dear HCP

One year since the Taliban takeover, Afghans live in constant fear with no safe route to the UK. The government has only delivered broken promises since evacuations last year.

Those evacuated are abandoned in hotels, unable to reunite with loved ones still in Afghanistan. The promised safe routes are not enough for Afghans still trapped in the region. Consequently, they are forced to take dangerous journeys, only to be cruelly threatened with banishment to Rwanda.

Without action now, more lives will be lost. The government must do more to help Afghans safely reach the UK, as it has rightly done for Ukrainians. I urge Tottenham MP David Lammy to stand with us and share our concerns in parliament.

Olivia Gray  
Harringay

## New train of thought

Dear HCP

As calls continue for the funding of Crossrail 2, its routes in North London need review. A 2016 report 'Transport for a World City' has useful insights.

First, the Central and Elizabeth lines into Liverpool Street need relief, which CR2's Hackney branch to Leytonstone could provide if served by alternate CR2 trains. That frequency would be available if CR2's £4billion New Southgate branch is dropped.

Second, CR2's service to Victoria will not release the extra capacity that North London needs toward Oxford Circus/Bond Street. To relieve the Piccadilly, Victoria, Northern and Euston Square lines while better supporting orbital journeys (and thus reducing car use) the money should be put toward a tube line from Manor House southwest through Finsbury Park and Nag's Head to Camden Road & Town, then south to Great Portland Street with Regent's Park and Bond Street.

Robert Adamson  
North London College

## Send us your letters

We accept letters of up to 150 words from people and organisations in the borough. Email [HCP@socialspider.com](mailto:HCP@socialspider.com) before Monday, 19th September.

# The housing crisis is out of control

## Newly-elected Stroud Green councillor Alexandra Worrell on renters' rights and the need for council homes in Haringey

One of the things that drove me to stand for election in my home ward was a desire to tackle London's housing crisis. This ties into my core political beliefs, but it's been enhanced by personal experience.

In my five years of navigating our broken private rented sector, I've had my fair share of horrible experiences – boilers and showers left broken for

Haringey's commitment to building 3,000 new council homes by 2031, the insourcing of our housing services and the introduction of a new selective licensing scheme on top of our existing scheme for Homes of Multiple Occupation (HMOs), are all positive things. Seeing what I see in casework, I just want us to go further and faster.

In Stroud Green, many residents are stuck in cramped and unsuitable private housing,

instructed the landlord to apply for a HMO licence and carry out renovations to bring it up to a minimum standard. The landlord promptly tried to serve an eviction notice on all the tenants to avoid the work and expense. Thankfully, we were able to challenge these illegal actions.

I've joined with tenants to successfully oppose a planning application where the landlord was trying to cram yet another

household into an already tightly carved up property. Whenever I walk around by Upper Tollington Park, I notice modestly sized houses with five, six, seven doorbells. I am now investigating because as a council we need to be proactive in setting clear expectations for living standards in HMOs, and ensuring accountability for the homeowner.

So many overlapping issues have contributed to the current situation – the decimation of council housing through 'Right to Buy', inadequate tenants' protections and now, soaring rent. We won't get the required change under this rotten Tory government – although we will try – so while lobbying for national improvements, we

“  
People's desperation is being exploited  
”

unable to afford anywhere better and with no hope of getting a council house because of the decades-long waiting list. There are families of four getting by in one-bedroom properties. Even with licensing schemes, I've seen landlords try to dodge responsibility. When the council inspected one property after a tenant complained of poor living conditions, they rightly

must also fight for a progressive Labour government. At the same time, we must use our powers to shield residents from the worst of the housing crisis. My first three months as a local councillor have only strengthened my resolve to do this.

Alexandra Worrell is a Labour councillor for Stroud Green. If you are a ward resident, you can get in touch:  
Call 07969 859 906  
Email [alexandra.worrell@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:alexandra.worrell@haringey.gov.uk)



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