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Council leader Peray Ahmet attends the launch of a 'Warm Welcome' space in Hornsey **Credit** Haringey Council

Council leader pledges help for Haringey residents struggling to pay bills

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Network of inclusive spaces to open across the borough where residents can have a hot drink and keep warm

Warm spaces will be provided in every ward in Haringey to help people struggling to heat their homes during the cost-of-living crisis, council leader Peray Ahmet has pledged.

The 'Warm Welcome' initiative has been set up to provide a network of inclusive spaces across the

borough where residents can have a hot drink and keep warm.

It is one of a series of measures designed to help people facing rising costs, as Haringey Council looks to continue the support provided to residents during the Covid-19 pandemic by working with local charities and community groups.

Speaking to the Local Democracy Reporting Service, Cllr Ahmet said food banks had seen a 20% increase in need and there was "a lot of worry" about who the cost-of-living crisis was going to impact.

She added: "Inflation is at a 40-year high, energy prices are through the roof. When you are talking to schools, they are talking about how it is impacting on their parents, but also how it is impacting on their workforce as well. It is a crisis."

The council leader said that as well as working with cafes to provide Warm Welcome spaces, the authority

will use its own buildings such as libraries. "The idea is there will be a Warm Welcome space in every ward in the borough," she explained.

A "pay it forward" scheme will allow people using the spaces to leave a voucher for other residents to order food and drink. Cllr Ahmet revealed that within one hour of launching, £30-worth of pay it forward donations had been made in just one location.

The council is planning to send a booklet to every household in the borough containing information on all the support that people are able to receive. These booklets will also be available in libraries, GP surgeries, schools and places of worship. The council plans to produce a similar support booklet for businesses.

Cllr Ahmet said residents needing support can access the 'Haringey Here to Help' financial helpline and

an online benefits calculator. They can also apply for the Haringey Support Fund and the Household Support Fund, which use grant funding from the government to provide financial support for low-income and vulnerable households.

"We have already got these measures in place," Cllr Ahmet explained. "These sorts of things came about during the pandemic and post-pandemic, and we have continued to do them and enhanced them."

Haringey Food Network, an informal network of community groups and food banks run by volunteers, will continue to provide emergency food to local people in need of support. The council's free school meals programme, which supports around 650 children in addition to the government-funded initiative, will continue during the half-term holiday.

Continued on Page-2

Local news that matters to you

Tues 1st Nov

First Quarter

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First Quarter

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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 family behind San Marco Italian restaurant in Bruce Grove, which turns 50 this year. Read their story on pages 8 and 9 **Credit** Tom Barlow-Brown

Continued from Page-1

Labour's local election manifesto included an "ambition" to provide free school meals for every primary school pupil, and Cllr Ahmet said the council was "trying to work through how we do that" given the budget pressures it faces. It is currently lobbying the government to provide more money.

Last month, a report revealed the council was forecast to spend £16million more than expected during the current financial year as a result of economic pressures and the ongoing effects of Covid-19. Cllr Ahmet said that despite the financial challenges, the council could play a leadership role in

terms of bringing people and agencies together.

She added: "Yes, the budgets are challenging, but it is worth bearing in mind that there are things we do day-to-day as a local authority that are our statutory duty and which the government hasn't and isn't funding to the levels that it should – adult social care, for example.

"We are absolutely doing our best. There are things we do directly, there are things statutorily that we have to

do – and we do that well – and then, in addition to that, we are co-ordinating some of these other initiatives."

Barnet Council froze core council tax for the current financial year to help hard-up residents, and the borough's new Labour administration has pledged to refund a 1% increase in the adult social care levy. Cllr

Ahmet ruled out a similar move in Haringey, pointing out that the council needs more funding for social care.

The council leader called on the government to provide more

funding for social care, to freeze energy prices, and to provide more money for sustainability measures to reduce energy costs for homes and businesses.

Cllr Ahmet said: "We are here to support [people], and we are here to do our best. Similar to the pandemic and the crisis that happened then, it is a case of us all pulling together as a Haringey community, as Haringey has done many times before, to work together to make sure that no-one in Haringey goes without."

For information on the support available to them, residents can visit the council's Haringey Here to Help webpage or call its financial support helpline on 020 8489 4431.

"It is a case of us pulling together as a community to make sure that no-one in Haringey goes without"

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and welcome to issue 13. November marks a year since *HCP* launched, and we want to celebrate with you! If you're available on Monday, November 28th, please join us at All Good Bookshop on Turnpike Lane from 7–9pm. You can book a free ticket at hcp-birthday.eventbrite.com

In this month's issue, we report on the opening of a new health centre in Wood Green, which aims to help

tackle the Covid-19 backlog, meanwhile a mural on Broadwater Farm has been given Grade 2 listed status, thus delaying development plans for the Tottenham estate (both stories can be found on page 4).

On page 6, we get an inside look at the Museum of Homelessness, coming to Finsbury Park in 2023. On page 7, Margaret Burr celebrates Luke Howard, former Tottenham resident and namer of the clouds, on the 250th

anniversary of his birth. And on pages 8 and 9, we sit down with the family behind San Marco Italian restaurant in Bruce Grove, as they celebrate 50 years of feeding the local community.

On page 10, we spend five minutes with the Haringey-based painter Yana Stajno ahead of her open studio, and on page 12 you can read about the fourth annual Tottenham Literature Festival, coming to Bernie Grant Arts Centre this month.

Finally, on page 15, a councillor for St Ann's discusses homelessness in her ward and the community groups that are making a difference.

If you have a personal experience, letter, story idea or photograph you would like to submit for our consideration, please send them to hcp@socialspider.com by Monday, 14th November.

Alice Kemp-Habib

One of the incidents took place at Seven Sisters Station in June

Investigation reveals passengers were dragged along platforms by trains

Incidents at Seven Sisters and Crouch Hill stations among three on London Overground network investigated

BY OLIVIA OPARA

An investigation has found that a train driver was unaware of a passenger trapped in a door at Seven Sisters Station – leading them to be dragged nine metres along the platform.

The Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB), in a report detailing three recent incidents of people being trapped in train doors on the London Overground network, revealed that on 23rd June at around 9.11am a passenger had been dragged at a speed of 8mph before the driver stopped the train.

The London Overground train had apparently departed because the driver was unaware that the passenger's fingers had been trapped by the doors – with a "misaligned camera" being blamed for the error. However, the passenger had managed to free their hand and the driver had hit the brakes after becoming concerned about the situation on the platform.

In a similar incident at Crouch Hill Station just six days later, a passenger's umbrella had been trapped by the doors of an overground train. The passenger had briefly held on to

the umbrella before letting go as the train had departed, travelling for around eleven metres and reaching a maximum speed of 6mph. The driver was said to have been aware of the passengers in close proximity to the train when they decided it was safe to start, but was not aware of the trapped umbrella.

No passengers were injured in the incidents but a manager for London Overground working at Transport for London said it would "do all we can to avoid similar incidents in future".

The dispatch of both Bombardier class 710 train units operate using driver-only operation (DOO) controls, which places the responsibility of operating the doors and checking that the train is safe

to depart on the driver. This check includes ensuring that no person or object is trapped in the closed doors or is in contact

with the train after the doors are closed. Bodyside cameras on each coach of the train facilitate this check, allowing the driver to monitor the threshold between the platform edge and the train.

In the Seven Sister case, Arriva Rail London discovered, upon inspection, that the relevant camera on the train was misaligned. This meant that the trapped passenger was only visible on the monitor from the neck down. It was also found that the monitors' images were not always clear. In both cases the passengers were standing

at the rearmost door, furthest away from the perspective of the relevant camera.

Despite having an obstacle detection system which also helps with the drivers' safety checks for departing, the class 710 units' door interlock would not necessarily be able to detect objects which

are thinner than 30mm, such as fingers or walking sticks, or which are non-rigid in nature, such as bag straps.

This is said to be the reason why the driver at Crouch Hill had no clue that an umbrella was caught in the door as they, the report said, "did not know about the limitations regarding door interlocks at all and that they relied on the door interlock indicator as assurance that nothing was trapped in the doors"

Drivers have been instructed not to depend on the interlock systems when carrying out safety checks, but the report says there were no face-to-face presentations of a briefing note that Arriva Rail London claimed to have posted at all driver depots, reminding drivers of this risk.

Rory O'Neill, TfL's general manager for London Overground, said: "Safety will always be our top priority. We know any instance of getting items trapped in train doors can be very distressing and are working closely with our operator, Arriva Rail London, to do all we can to avoid similar incidents in future.

Teen charged with Kane Moses murder

A 17-year-old has been charged with the murder of Kane Moses, who was stabbed to death in September.

The teenager was arrested in Edinburgh on Wednesday, 19th October. He was taken to a London police station and charged with Kane's murder and with possession of a pointed or bladed article on 21st October.

He appeared in custody on Saturday, 22nd October, at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

The murder investigation was launched on Friday, 30th September, when 19-year-old Kane was killed in Tottenham High Road, near to Holcombe Market, N17.

A post-mortem examination held on 2 October gave the cause of death as a stab wound to the chest.

Kane Moses
Credit: Met police

Three charged with murder of Tottenham man

Two men and a teenage boy have been charged with the murder of 43-year-old Koray Alpergin and the kidnap of Koray's girlfriend.

The victim's body was found in an Essex woodland on Saturday, 15th October. The Metropolitan Police had already been searching for both the 43-year-old and his 33-year-old girlfriend after the pair had been reported missing from Ebony Crescent in Southgate on Thursday, 13th October.

Charged with Koray's murder, plus the kidnap of his girlfriend who was later found unharmed, are Erdogan Ulcay, aged 55 of Oakeshott Avenue, Camden; Ali Kavak, aged 25 of De Quincey Road, Tottenham; plus a 17-year-old boy who cannot be named for legal reasons. A fourth man was arrested but bailed until mid-November, pending further enquiries.

Detectives from the Met's specialist crime command continue to support Koray's family. He was the founder of the London Turkish stations Bizim FM and Kral FM and lived in Tottenham.

A post-mortem examination carried out found he had died from severe trauma. Further forensic tests are taking place.

Koray Alpergin
Credit: Met police

NEWS

Broadwater Farm redevelopment delayed after mural given listed status

The proposed redevelopment of a Tottenham housing estate has been put on hold after a mural was given protected status.

Plans by Haringey Council to demolish buildings at Broadwater Farm Estate to make way for new homes are being temporarily delayed to allow officials to consider the impact of the proposals on the mural, which was created to promote reconciliation in the aftermath of 1985 estate riot and has recently become Grade 2-listed.

The council wants to knock down the Tangmere, Northolt and Stapleford North residential blocks at the estate and build 294 new homes for council rent, along with a modern health and wellbeing centre and affordable workspaces. The plans were drawn up after structural faults were found in the Tangmere and Northolt blocks, shortly following the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Councillors were due to consider the proposals during a planning sub-committee meeting last month, but they agreed to defer the application to a future meeting after the government told the council on 5th October that the mosaic mural on the side of the Tangmere building had been

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

New protection for estate mural forces Haringey Council to re-evaluate its plans for demolishing tower block



The newly-listed mural on Tangmere House in Broadwater Farm, Tottenham

Grade 2-listed for its special architectural or historic interest.

The *Equality-Harmony* mural was created in the aftermath of the Broadwater Farm riot in October 1985 by Turkish artist Gulsun Erbil, who lived on the estate and witnessed the events. Gulsun described the overarching theme of the artwork as one of reconciliation between the races.

The official entry on the Historic England website states: "Through its depictions of cultural and community life on the estate, the mural celebrates the grassroots activism which helped shape it and counters a narrative of disaffection associated with the estate."

According to Historic England, the mural was created using a Byzantine mosaic technique. It was listed "for its celebration of universal values of peace, equality and harmony, alongside depictions of the diverse cultural life of the Broadwater Farm Estate, and aspects of youth culture more broadly in 1980s Britain".

Council officers said the plans could be brought back to a meeting of the committee in December but were unable to give an exact date. The committee then voted unanimously in favour of officers' recommendations.

New high street NHS centre opens in Wood Green

A new health centre has opened in Wood Green, in an effort to clear the Covid-19 backlog.

Operated by Whittington Health NHS Trust, The Wood Green Community Diagnostics Hub occupies two ground floor units in The Mall. It offers a range of medical services including blood tests, X-rays, ultrasound scans and specialist eye tests.

This comes as part of a nationwide roll-out which will see hundreds more community diagnostic centres (CDCs) opened across the country by 2025. The NHS hopes to make it easier and quicker for people to access appointments, diagnostic tests and treatment.

All services at the Wood Green hub are provided in addition to existing local NHS services, in an effort to provide extra capacity in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Based in community settings such as shopping centres and football stadiums the centres are backed by £2.3billion in government funding.

The hub in Wood Green was opened by then health secretary Thérèse Coffey last month. She said: "My number one priority is delivering for patients and we're getting on with the job tackling the issues that affect people most – ambulances, backlogs, care, doctors and dentists.

The new centre aims to boost access to appointments, diagnoses and treatment

BY ALICE KEMP-HABIB

"This new community diagnostic centre in The Mall in Wood Green is a fantastic example of how the NHS is innovating to bust the Covid backlog and speed up diagnoses – from cancer to lung disease – with rapid access to vital scans, tests and checks in the heart of the community.

"Nationally, over two million

checks have been delivered through these centres and we're on track to open up to 160 across the country by 2025, delivering an additional 17 million checks."

NHS medical director for transformation, Vin Diwakar, said: "It is testament to the hard work of staff across the NHS that we have now delivered more than two millions tests at



Former Health Secretary Thérèse Coffey opens the new health hub at The Mall Wood Green

checks at CDCs nationally and latest figures show we have the lowest number of patients waiting for tests and checks since we published our elective recovery plan in February.

"We know that rapid diagnosis saves lives, and it is great news that more of these centres have been approved to provide checks, scans and tests in the heart of local communities, making services more accessible and convenient and also helping us to improve outcomes for patients with cancer and other serious conditions."

According to the NHS, cancer, respiratory disease and cardiovascular disease are the largest causes of avoidable death in North London, and there is a 15-year gap in healthy life expectancy between the richest and least well-off parts of Haringey. The new centre aims to tackle health inequalities in Haringey by providing diagnostic tests on the high street.

The hub is expected to have provided over 40,000 tests to patients by the spring. It is currently operating Monday to Friday but will open seven days a week in the near future. Plans to expand the centre are already underway, with building work to expand into the unit's lower ground floor with the installation of MRI and CT scanners set to begin later this year.

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Manor House Lodge, the new site for the Museum of Homelessness
Credit: Museum of Homelessness

Museum of Homelessness comes to Finsbury Park

Co-founder Matt Turtle reflects on the area's radical history, and why it's the perfect place to lay down roots

In late September, after seven years of searching, the Museum of Homelessness announced that it finally had a place to set down roots. We are delighted to make a base and a home in Finsbury Park in 2023.

First of all, the basics. We are a charity which carries out direct work with people affected by homelessness and we were founded and are led by people with direct experiences of homelessness. We are small, grassroots and produce creative work. But we also carry out mutual aid style work and campaigning with people in our community. Some readers who follow us will not be too surprised by our recent announcement. We have worked in North London for several years now and so making a home here is the logical conclusion of many years of searching for a space of our own in the area. This will allow us to continue our work with grassroots organisations such as Haringey Migrant Support, Streets Kitchen and the Outside Project, as well as the local authority and residents.

The park is a precious setting for us. This amazing green space, bordering three boroughs, contains within it a small underused park lodge that has fallen into disrepair. Next to the lodge is Woodberry

Down, one of the great post-war social housing projects now being swept away by London's all too familiar gentrification. The area's history is tied to the ideas of thinkers, dreamers and doers of all stripes; Black community organisers such as Haringey Vanguard, the suffragettes, the anti-fascists and the punks – Johnny Rotten was literally born around the corner. We hope to add to this great tradition of grassroots action and after nearly two years of discussion with Haringey Council, we will be moving in to nurture, restore and make proper use of this historic building that dates back to when the park first opened in 1869.

People who read this may wonder what on earth to expect at our museum. The lodge itself is small, without much display space or room for grand exhibitions. That suits us just fine. For the best part of a decade, we have creatively adapted to different spaces and places be they hostels, the street, libraries, old fire stations or some of the biggest galleries in the UK. Our most recent immersive exhibition, Secret Museum, won 'Temporary Exhibition of the Year' at the Museum and Heritage Awards. Our way of working is more immediate and live than a traditional museum and this reflects wider feelings about homelessness in society. It isn't something people sit back and contemplate; it is something that evokes strong feelings and a desire for action, and rightly so. Coming to the Museum of Homelessness will be an invitation to step into our world – one of connection, sharing and learning through doing. People can expect live

object stories rather than artefacts behind glass; conversations rather than labels and actions for the future rather than being fully focused on the past.

Ultimately though, we will be guided by people who are experiencing homelessness and poverty in what we do. During the pandemic we created a mutual aid style operation across North London. When lockdown first hit, the food supply chain collapsed and there was a need to respond. Readers may well have seen me cycling with a food trailer attached to my bike around Stamford Hill and Green Lanes. During lockdown one, we got nearly 10,000 food packages out to the streets and into emergency accommodation.

Why do we work this way? Well, we are a museum created in the wake of the financial crash, a museum with survivors of trauma and homelessness calling the shots, set up in an age of austerity that has hardly abated in the last few years. We don't, and never have, accepted the standard script for museums as they should be done or as some people might expect. And we are not alone; museums like ours are increasingly common and have a new way of doing things – one that is socially engaged, transparent and sees its remit expanding way beyond simply putting pictures on walls and holding talks. As we develop our award-winning work in Finsbury Park, we look forward to meeting more local people and continuing the proud tradition of strong community work in the borough.

The Museum of Homelessness is due to open in spring 2023

Just keep swimming

Volunteer Naomi Stewart on the new, Tottenham-based swim club aimed at people with disabilities

On an autumnal but warm October evening, I recently gathered in the lobby of Tottenham Green Pools & Fitness for the launch of a new local swim club called 'WeSwim'. This club ensures those with physical or learning disabilities can spend time in the pool with a volunteer, focused on building confidence, strengthening and conditioning, and overall water skills.

Being physically active can be difficult for people with disabilities, and leisure centres can be intimidating places – yet swimming is a great form of movement for a range of people, and enables people to exercise in ways they can't on land.

Throughout the pandemic, our sense of community and activity levels had shifted. Being from another country myself, I had been searching for volunteer opportunities to re-invigorate those aspects of my life in my community of Tottenham, and WeSwim immediately caught my attention.



They had launched just before Covid-19, but endured a long pause before they could get back in the water. Once restrictions eased, they built up a session at Ironmonger Row Baths near Old Street.

One new swimmer there explained he hadn't swam for several years as he wasn't sure how his body would be in the water and didn't want to run into difficulties in a public session alone. After attending WeSwim sessions for several months, he built up his confidence and went on holiday where he felt comfortable to freely use a pool and enjoy his holiday like everyone else.

There are also stark links

between disability and loneliness. Community clubs like this enable people to engage with other community members, while gaining a sense of achievement from doing something new.

However, some people were travelling a long way to get to the club at Old Street. Travel can be challenging for disabled people, and the need was recognised for more clubs across London.

In Haringey specifically, more than 19,500 people have a physical disability; approximately 10% of the population between the ages of 16–64. It's also estimated that nearly 6,000 Haringey residents over the age of 14 have a learning disability. So WeSwim decided to open a new club in Tottenham.

That's how I found myself in the pool that Monday night. Seven disabled swimmers joined in, supported one-to-one with volunteers like myself. Many expressed how nervous they were feeling beforehand, but with the support of the

On the 250th anniversary of Luke Howard's birth, Margaret Burr celebrates the pioneering meteorologist and introduces a programme of activities at Lordship Rec to mark the occasion

Did you know that the Latin names given to clouds used globally were invented by a Tottenham resident?

Luke Howard was born 28th November 1772 in London. He spent much of his life in Tottenham, recording the weather from homes on Tottenham Green, and from numbers 4 and 7 Bruce Grove, where he spent his final years. It is at his last home that the only English Heritage Blue Plaque in Tottenham exists: "Luke Howard, Namer of Clouds".

His system of identifying and classifying clouds named three main categories using Latin – *Cumulus* (heap), *Stratus* (layer), *Cirrus* (curl of hair), as well as the rain cloud, *Nimbus* (rain). The quest to explain and understand clouds was centuries old. Clouds were spoken of as 'essences' floating across the sky and believed to be impossible to categorise and name. Luke Howard recognised the need for a universal language for this global phenomenon and chose Latin, the language used by Carl Linnaeus for his classification of plants and animals.

The great German philosopher, diplomat and poet, Johann Wolfgang Goethe, recognised the importance of Luke Howard's scheme for naming clouds. It chimed with his own interest in observing and recording the forms of clouds, and provided the key to understanding nature which he had been seeking. He wrote a poem *In honour of Mr Howard* and noted:

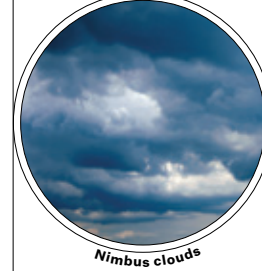
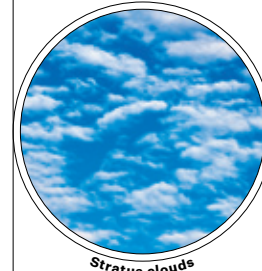
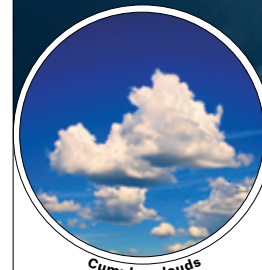
*To find yourself in the infinite,
You must distinguish and then combine;
Therefore my winged song thanks
The man who distinguished cloud from cloud.*

John Constable used Luke Howard's terminology to describe his cloud studies. Incidentally, JMW Turner, known for his dramatic sky vistas, visited his patron BG Windus across from Luke Howard's home on Tottenham Green.

Under The Five Mile Act (1665) the Quakers, who opposed state interference in religion, were forced to worship outside of the City of London. Tottenham with its clean air, water and good educational facilities, but close to the City, was particularly attractive to such nonconformists. Quakers, like other dissenters, were barred from English universities and most



Chasing clouds



“
That the final home of this inspiring figure has been allowed to fall into decline is a disgrace
”

professions, so business was a natural outlet for their talents.

Luke Howard, a Quaker himself, became a manufacturing chemist but was fascinated by clouds and the weather from childhood. For over 30 years he made and recorded accurate meteorological observations: pressure, temperature, humidity, precipitation and evaporation. However, there was no means of recording wind velocity except by direct observation. He identified a phenomenon now known as the urban heat island effect; that urban areas were warmer than rural areas due to human activity. The data from his weather measurements is used by urban climate scientists to this day.

Luke Howard was a deeply religious man with a strong sense of duty towards those less fortunate than himself. He was involved in the anti-slavery movement, and he was a prominent member of the Society Against Capital Punishment, Society Against Cruelty to Animals and a founding member of the African Institution. He led Quaker relief efforts in the German states after the Napoleonic Wars. In Tottenham, he was on the committee of the Lancasterian School as well as overseer

of the poor in 1820 (an elected official who administered relief such as money, food, and clothing for those in need).

That the final home of this inspiring figure, 7 Bruce Grove, has been allowed to fall into decline is a disgrace.

Anniversary weekend Lordship Rec Eco-Hub N17 6NU
Saturday 26 November
Looking up – celebration of clouds, art and science
10.30–12.30: Exciting activities for young people with cloud wheels, kites and performance

Sunday 27 November
Clouds: past, present and future!
10.30am: Energy and climate change workshop
1.00pm: Talks by Luke Howard's biographer and speakers from the Met Office and Cloud Appreciation Society

Launch of Lordship Rec as the first official Cloud Appreciation Park
Lordship Rec with its vista offers the ideal location to study the sky. The Luke Howard Weather Station will record the weather, just as he did all those years ago, and new cloud interpretation boards will enable us to learn about the clouds which form, float and disappear overhead.

Appeal to create a legacy of Luke Howard, Namer of Clouds
Money raised will go towards the costs of the Cloud Interpretation Boards, resources and activities over the year and Lordship Rec event costs. Funding for the Luke Howard Weather Station and public digital display has already been obtained.
Donate at: gofund.me/093171ef

Other events, including talks, exhibitions and poetry are being organised by Bruce Castle Museum and The Room, Holcombe Road N17.

To find out more about Luke Howard, all of the events and the appeal go to: tottenhamclouds.org.uk

Tottenham's best kept secret

San Marco – the well loved and patronised Italian restaurant in Bruce Grove – turns 50 this year

BY ALICE KEMP-HABIB

On the corner of Moorfield Road and Bruce Grove, directly opposite the overground station, sits a charming Italian restaurant, oozing an old-timey charm that jars with the increasingly sanitised nature of UK high streets. Inside, pizza boxes are stacked high along the back wall and dim lights hang low over a cosy collection of tables. Outside, a faded red-orange awning provides shelter for a modest outdoor

dining area. This is San Marco, one of Tottenham's best kept secrets, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. When I arrive at the locally-famous Italian, it is clear that San Marco is a family affair. I am greeted first by Mirella, who promptly introduces me to her two teenage sons. Her brother Graziano (the restaurant's current owner) emerges from the kitchen and briskly shakes my hand, before introducing me to his father, Giuseppe, who founded San Marco in 1972.

Sitting at the head of a family-sized dining table, Giuseppe is very much the king of his domain. Over the past five decades, his restaurant has established itself as the go-to for delicious, no-frills pizza and pasta served with home-style charm. Comedian Stanley Baxter was once a regular. In 2010, it featured in a BBC film titled *The Song of Lunch*. Rumour has it a young Prince William once came in to use the bathroom and, more recently, Guns N' Roses ordered their pre-concert meal from San Marco

before performing at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium. "Fifty years!" Giuseppe exclaims, leafing through a photo album that has been brought out to aid our conversation. "So many stories. We need one week to tell everything." A couple of hours has to suffice, during which Giuseppe and his family spin a colourful account of the restaurant's history. He moved from Italy to England in 1961, aged 22, working a string of hospitality jobs before founding

a small cafe in Leytonstone. The opportunity to set up in Tottenham emerged when a seemingly cursed business premises appeared on the market. "I bought this place for very little money because before me, it had three owners in six months," Giuseppe recalls. Originally called the Grenville, Giuseppe took care of business in the kitchen – preparing up to 85 lunches a day – while his wife Barbara managed front of house operations. They later expanded into the furniture shop next door, maintaining the restaurant's original name, as well as its emphasis on traditional English grub. "In those days Italians were just setting up in the country, people weren't ready to try new things," says Mirella. "When I was a little girl, [my dad] used to do roast beef and two veg, gammon steak, chips, apple pie and custard. He used to do English classics, but with an Italian chef. It was delicious!" Giuseppe changed the restaurant's name to San Marco in 1985, in honour of the Italian village he grew up in. That same year, riots broke out the nearby Broadwater Farm Estate, in response to the death of Cynthia Jarrett after police raided her home. Giuseppe says it seriously impacted his business. "The police were parked here for a week. Everyday they would bring their vans just in case the riot would spark again. My customers would come under the bridge, and as soon as they saw the police here they would turn back because they thought there was trouble." Following the events of 1985, he says, San Marco's clientele began to change. "The area used to be populated by old English couples, but after the riots happened they all put their houses up for sale. And then who's coming in? People like me, foreign people. And we've done all right," he says. Graziano, Mirella and their sister

Loretta (who now lives in Italy) helped out in the restaurant throughout their younger years, as do Mirella's sons today. In the 2010s, Giuseppe passed the torch to his son, and San Marco has continued to go from strength to strength. He purchased a pizza oven with the profits made from the BBC film, and thanks Spurs fans – who regularly fill the tables after matches – for being the restaurant's most loyal customers. But running the business has not been without its challenges, Graziano says. Not least some of the stereotypes associated with the area. "In the past people used to ask 'where's your restaurant?' When I said Tottenham, the conversation sometimes ended because they weren't interested. But I live, breathe and eat Tottenham. I've been here forever and a day, and I've continued here because the people of Tottenham have supported us in spite of the difficulties," he says. During the pandemic, San Marco was forced to adapt, launching on delivery apps in order to survive consecutive lockdowns. Now, Graziano says, the cost of living crisis poses yet another threat. But he's pushing on regardless. "I won't relent," he says. "We'll continue and make this place run until my brain tells me no, or my body tells me no. There's no way I can lose because I'm too committed." Giuseppe retired in 2010, but still pops in on a daily basis (often with fresh herbs from his garden). "If I don't come here in the morning, I feel like I'm missing something," he says. With 50 years under their belt, I ask Graziano what's next for San Marco. "I just want it to be more of the same; serving the community," he says. "I don't want to break any records, I just want to be a local eatery. I'm not looking to buy more restaurants or make it a franchise or anything like that. We're just a local restaurant, serving the locals one way or the other."

Giuseppe in the kitchen at San Marco



The kitchen in San Marco, 2022



San Marco today

Graziano in the kitchen, 2022

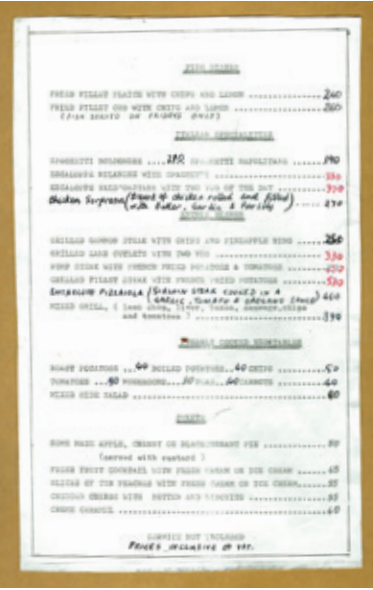


Giuseppe founded San Marco in 1972

Giuseppe with a picture of his younger self, 2022



An archive picture of San Marco, from the Parletta family albums



San Marco once served a mix of Italian and traditionally English dishes



A vintage menu

“I live, breathe and eat Tottenham”

Five minutes with Yana Stajno

Home is...
In my youth, it was Zimbabwe, then South Africa, but in London it has always been Haringey. I moved into my current home recently and realised that home is where my paint brushes dry.

Which shops do you rely on?
Green Guru on Alexandra Park Road and the local fruit market – I love the colours of a fruit shop, they look like an artist's palette. In fact, this inspired me to do a series of fruit and veg paintings which became so popular I made them into prints. Carrots and cabbages at their most glamorous.

Why do you love Haringey?
I think it is a combination of green spaces and amazing people. I have always loved the energy of living in diverse communities, it adds to all our lives and helps us gain new perspectives. I think Haringey is a blueprint for other communities in what is gained when you truly value and respect people's differences but find a common cause with them anyway.

Where do you go for a moment of quiet?
My studio in Wood Green Works – it is peaceful inside, but I can hear the hustle and bustle of Station Road, which is important to me. I like to feel that connection, so perhaps I don't really like quiet.

A place in Haringey that has inspired your work?
I mentioned the markets, but also my

HCP sat down with the Haringey-based painter ahead of her open studio later this month



Yana Stajno with her painting 'Spring in Crouch End'

allotment. In every sense this is a place where we grow together. I love to see the diversity of what is grown there. Incidentally, I love that the instructions for cleaning the toilet appear in the ten most common languages spoken in the borough.

Best meal you've had in the borough?
It has to be Gokyuzu on Green Lanes, it is a great neighbourhood restaurant. Turkish restaurants are always so welcoming and generous, which makes them great value.

I love that the food is cooked on charcoal and of course they give you a great plate of salad – which seems to be a recurring theme in my answers.

Where in the borough would you recommend for a first date?
Beam in Crouch End. There is great variety in the menu and lots of vegan choices, which is handy on a first date before you have worked out what dietary requirements need to be negotiated.

You basically sit in a mini-living room (great to have the conversations you need to get to know each other, or make a quick getaway if all goes wrong).

What's your one rule for life?
Keep a bag packed... the pessimist in me thinks that terrible things can happen. The optimist thinks I can be spontaneous and be ready to go away at a moment's notice.

A work of art that changed you?
The first time I saw the work of German painter Emil Nolde. I love the free expression in his work. It made me think anyone can paint, which is a philosophy I take into my workshops with people who have never painted before. It is also chilling to remember this was seen as degenerate art by the Nazis in 1930s Germany. We can't take freedom of expression too lightly.

What should HCP readers be watching right now?
Lucky (available on Facebook), one of the Collage Arts lockdown monologues which gave voice to local women of colour. This is a great celebration of a what a creative borough we are.

What are you working on at the moment?
My new project is to put my paintings onto silk kimonos. But I am also busy making my studio into a gallery for the N22 Open Studios this month.

The N22 Open Studios take place from 12th–13th November
Visit n22openstudio.com

Advertisement

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1 December 2022
11am - 4pm

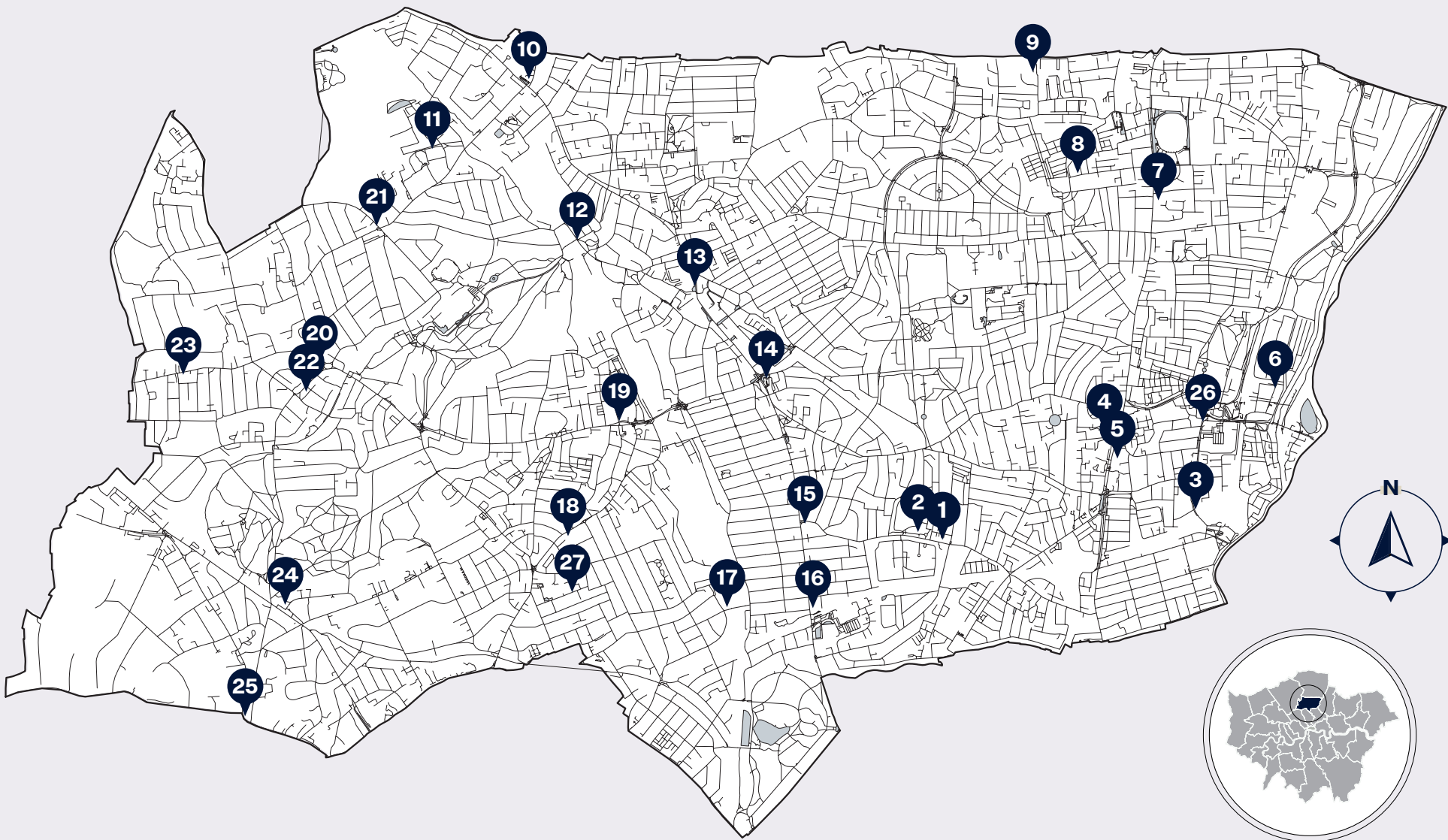
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1 Philip Lane, London N15 4JA

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5 Hunters Estate Agents	19 The Great Northern Railway Tavern
6 The Engine Room	20 Muswell Hill Library
7 People's World Community Hub	21 Maid of Muswell
8 Antwerp Arms	22 The Hedgehog
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Email hcp@socialspider.com

Sign up to the HCP newsletter: bit.ly/3nUI9fS

Our weekly newsletter will keep you up-to-date with the latest news, features, and comment found on the HCP website





▲
The book market
at TLF 2021
Credit: Nina
Robinson

ARTS

‘The healing power of words should be accessible to everyone’

One of my favourite quotes by the iconic African-American writer Audre Lorde speaks to the ‘invisible’ power poetry has in our lives. “Poetry is not only a dream and vision; it is the skeleton architecture of our lives. It lays the foundations for a future of change, a bridge across our fears of what has never been before,” writes Lorde in her essay *Poetry Is Not a Luxury* (1985).

I returned to these words many times when planning this year’s Tottenham Literature Festival (TLF). Lorde brings to life the notion that when all around seems to be disintegrating, turning to poetry as a foundation, and I’d argue writing more broadly, is a place where we can meet each other, heal and affect real change. The healing power of words should also be accessible to everyone.

The theme of this year’s TLF, which is taking place from the 14–20th November at Bernie Grant Arts Centre (BGAC), is ‘healing stories’.

In our busy, stressed, screen-obsessed lives, I sometimes wonder about all the poems and words we let slip through our fingers. TLF came out of a desire to create a space where Black authors,

Hannah Azieb-Pool, creative director of Bernie Grant Arts Centre, introduces the fourth annual Tottenham Literature Festival

readers and lovers of words could gather to build our bridges together brick by brick, word by word, poem by poem.

The festival is in direct response to a frustration with other literature spaces, where Black authors are often sidelined or invited only to speak about the trauma of racism, or in relation to ‘not being a white writer’.

TLF is a space for people of all backgrounds to collectively enjoy the power of Black storytelling, to feast on words in their most accessible forms, via live performances, readings, interviews and workshops. And to celebrate the multiplicities of the Black experience, right in the heart of Tottenham, one of the UK’s most diverse and creative areas.

At the core of this year’s TLF is an ambition to be as accessible as possible. Whether it’s ensuring there is a free programme, working with local schools or

creating a flexible ‘pay what you can’ ticket starting at just £3.

But access isn’t just about who gets to enjoy the work; it’s also about who gets to make it. From the start TLF offered British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation; this year we have also partnered with the UK’s leading deaf film and arts festival, Deafest, platforming Black deaf artists.

We’ve also increased opportunities for emerging writers; there’s a chance to pitch your book ideas to a literary agent and receive on-the-spot feedback (‘speed-pitch your book!’ workshop), or take part in a digital ‘kick-start your writing’ masterclass.

We have a great series of live events, such as a night of stunning poetry with More Fyah Anthology, Paterson Joseph reading from his new book on Ignatius Sancho and a free sharing of *Refilwe*, a reimagining of *Rapunzel*, where the lead

character is a Black girl with beautiful long dreadlocks.

One of the events I’m most excited about is our artist in residence, award-winning writer, performer and theatre maker, Travis Alabanza, delivering a keynote lecture on their incredible new book *None of the Above*, and a special workshop for Black LGBTQI+ writers, on Saturday 19th November.

I’m thrilled we have Lemn Sissay headlining on our family day on Sunday 20th November, with a read-along of his brilliant new children’s book, *Don’t Ask The Dragon*. Every child will take home a free, signed copy, plus there’s a chance to pick up a free abridged version of his memoir, *My Name is Why*, as BGAC brings The Big Read to Tottenham for the first time, working with local libraries and giving away 1,000 books as part of our partnership with The Reading Agency.

If for some reason you can’t make it to TLF, we’ve got lots of great stuff planned for the end of the year. There’s our new monthly film night on the first Thursday of the month, and the magic and mystery of Punch Drunk’s ‘Lost Lending Library’ in December. Head to the BGAC website and join us as we come together to embrace the power of words to heal.

Visit berniegrantcentre.co.uk

LISTINGS

Market

Alexandra Palace Farmers’ Market
Sunday, 13th Nov, 10am–3pm
Alexandra Palace, Muswell Hill
(bottom entrance) N10 3TG

Run by City & Country Farmers’ Markets, Alexandra Palace Farmers’ Market is an award-winning local market bursting with high-quality, locally-grown produce, bread, cakes, pastries, meat, and dairy products. There will also be arts and crafts and hot food stalls. Yum!

Free entry
Visit weareccfm.com

Fair

Handmade in Highgate Winter Fair
Friday 18th Nov–Sunday 20th Nov
Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, 11 South Grove N6 6BS

Hosting a selection of designers, makers and artists, the Handmade in Highgate Winter Fair will consist of exhibitions ranging from textiles and fashion to jewellery and ceramics. Rotherview Nurseries – which is based in Hastings – will be showcasing a selection of award-winning plants and shrubs, while the Soho-based Two Shuks bakery will be on hand to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Free entry
Visit hand-made-in-highgate.com

Gig

Ramshackle Collective
Every Tuesday evening 7–10pm
Ten to One Haringey, 276 Philip Lane, Tottenham N15 4AD

Ramshackle Collective is a new community of musicians, writers, poets, artists, comedians and creatives who meet up to showcase their crafts in Tottenham’s Philip Lane. The collective hosts regular evenings of comedy, live music, poetry and spoken-word as well as writing workshops at the cocktail bar Ten to One Haringey.

Free entry, donations welcome
Visit ramshacklecollective.com

Food

Ebi Fusion’s Plant Based & Artisan Market
Thursday, 17th Nov, 10am–6pm
The RecordShop, Unit 17A, 159 High Road, Wood Green N22 6YQ

This plant based and artisan market is run by Ebi Fusion, a catering company which specialises in vegetarian and vegan Caribbean food. The market consists of stalls selling cruelty-free produce, jewellery, food, beauty products and homemade crafts, all from small local businesses. The market is hosted by the RecordShop, a free pop-up recording studio and artist development programme for young creatives.

Free entry
Visit bit.ly/3sbljlg

Poetry

Spoken word night
Thursday, 24th Nov, 8–11pm
All Good Bookshop, 35 Turnpike Lane N8 0EP

All Good Bookshop is hosting an evening of spoken word that will be filled with poetry, prose, monologues and comedy. There will be local poets and comedians doing five minutes gigs throughout the night and anyone and everyone is encouraged to join in – even your shopping lists can be performed! This is a bring your own refreshments event.

Tickets £2 for audience members, £3 for performers
Visit allgoodbookshop.co.uk/special-events

Music

Tomorrow’s Warriors presents Joti Quintet
Friday, 11th Nov, 7.30–10.30pm
MAAD, 4 Coburg Road, Wood Green N22 6UJ

Joti Quintet, a jazz ensemble led by 22-year-old trumpeter Joseph Oti, is opening the Karamel N22 sessions as part of the EFG London Jazz Festival. The evening will be hosted by musical education platform Tomorrow’s Warriors, whose alumni include Moses Boyd, Nubya Garcia and Sons of Kemet.

Tickets general admission £10, students £5
Visit bit.ly/3SpQO6s

Pub Quiz

Who Killed Bambi?
Every Tuesday 8pm till late
The Boogaloo, 312 Archway Road, N6 5AT

London’s oldest pop culture quiz – ‘Who Killed Bambi?’ – will put your music, film and TV knowledge to the ultimate test, plus, there are cash prizes! The evening will be soundtracked by the Boogaloo’s Radio DJs, who spin records from soul to garage to rock’n’roll.

Tickets £3
Visit theboogaloo.co.uk/whats-on

Art

Highgate Watercolour Group Show
1st–21st Nov, 12–4pm daily except Wednesday 11am–3pm
Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, N6 5HG

Highgate Watercolour Group Show is back for a month-long exhibition hosted by the Highgate Society. This annual autumn event will feature watercolour artwork by members of the society, who mainly use oil paints and acrylics. The group is a mixture of professional and beginner painters.

Free entry
Visit highgatewatercolour.org.uk

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 by Monday 14th November



▲
Credit
Pure Feminine
(PFE)

The secret life of Wood Green

Tucked behind Wood Green High Road is a little known hub of artists and makers. This month they’re opening their studios to the public

BY MANOJ AMBASNA

Wood Green is a creative powerhouse with an unusually high concentration of artists, designer-makers, musicians and recording studios, all of which operate in the area’s so-called Cultural Quarter (a cluster of studios located in disused office buildings, many managed by our team at Collage Arts).

If you would like to find out more about the creatives who work here, join us from the 12th–13th November for N22 Open Studios. This is a chance to come and talk to artists about their work. You will not be pressured to buy anything, but you are welcome to take home a piece of original artwork at a reasonable cost.

The Collage Arts community programmes aim to tackle issues, like loneliness among older people and gang culture, by using a creative approach. As a result, we run a performing arts programme for young people and a lunch club for older men and women of colour, among many other programmes. We are able to

make a difference because we have space, a tenacious fundraising team and an abundance of creative professionals at our disposal. Many of our activities are funded, in-part, by the money raised from renting out studio space.

N22 Open Studios is a chance to learn first-hand about what artists do. We have two posters this year. One features the designer Carmelle Powell, who brings a unique twist to masquerade and carnival costumes. The second features artist Umar Mur-taza, whose work is heavily influenced by his training as a pharmacist. Visitors will be able to see both of their work. We also have an exhibition by the Frame Perfect collective, as our contribution to Black History Haringey 365 (an effort to celebrate Haringey’s Black history all year round).

Art spaces like ours are under threat. This year already we have lost nearly a quarter of the spaces we operate (after being outbid on a building, we had to say goodbye to artists who had been with us over 20 years). This trend is being

replicated across London; a 2018 report by the Mayor of London suggested that 24% of artist studios included in the study were at risk of closure by 2023. But we are starting to have conversations with developers and landlords in the area, and are keen to highlight the value that artists bring to Wood Green.

This our first open studios since lockdown. During the pandemic, when we couldn’t open the studios, we continued to support the community. Over 100 older women of colour worked with us online; we continued to support schools with virtual and face-to-face programmes. But there is always more we can do. So, if you have ideas about how we can apply creativity to new challenges in Haringey, come and talk to me at the event, and be prepared to be amazed at what is happening in some converted office blocks.

N22 Open Studios is taking place from the 12th–13th November between 10am–6pm

“
Art spaces
like ours are
under threat
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ARTS

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‘There has been an oversight in help for disabled people and carers’

In our new column, a different Haringey resident will discuss how the cost of living is impacting them each month. Tracy Gidley is a carer for her sister; here, she explains the tough choices she will be faced with over the coming months and shares her tips and tricks for saving in a crisis

The cost of living crisis, it's a phrase we've heard a lot recently and something that is affecting many. Especially those of us, like myself, who are on a low income. I'm a Tottenham resident. I'm primarily a carer for my older sister, who suffers with many health issues – most prominently rheumatoid arthritis, M.E and asthma. I also work for ten hours a week in our local community centre and church. As our household is on a low income, the current economic crisis has already had some effect on us and I fear it will only get worse.

Currently we have had to find ways of cutting back on grocery bills as other bills have gone up, despite not having the heating on yet. This is worrying; not only are my sister's conditions made worse by cold temperatures, so are mine. I fear that I will become ill and therefore be unable to care for my sister. I think most carers think of the people they care for before themselves, but I hope we can both keep warm and fed over the coming



months. There does seem to be an oversight in government help for disabled people and carers. PIP (Personal Independent Payments), for example, is supposed to cover the extra expenses that people with disabilities or long-term health problems might incur. But the allowance is now going much quicker as everything is so expensive, and if you need to get high price items – like a new wheelchair – there just isn't enough. I personally have to pay for my prescriptions and certain items, like dressings, are limited in supply, which means you have to stockpile. But with prices going up so much, I'll be forced to make a choice; rent,

food, heating or medical supplies. It is getting more and more difficult to cover everything.

As a result of the crisis, we've had to cut back on 'little treats' like snacks, meat-based meals and fizzy drinks. We are not going out as much – and I'm not just referring to trips for leisure, but anything that involves costs like bus or train travel. Luckily, we are in a better position than many others I know. My sister and I are able to provide financial and emotional support for each other, and I can still put food on the table and a roof over our heads.

This is partly due to the fact that we are very good at making savings. I am quite good at

finding bargains, like Lidl's £1.50 veg box (which is out of date but still good to eat) and I always check the reduced 'yellow sticker' items. I suspect that there are many households like ours that are just about managing, so I would like to share some of our tips for getting cheaper items. Most people have access to a mobile phone (if you don't there are schemes that help you get one via foodbanks or organisations like Coffee & Computers), and I believe in making that work for you. I started by downloading supermarket reward apps that either lower prices, give cashback and vouchers or both. My local supermarket is Lidl, and their app gets you £5 off a £25 shop when you first install it, then money-off vouchers throughout the month. There are also coupon apps like Shopmium or Green Jinn, which allow you to get money back on store-bought items. It's also worth using apps like Store Rewards, on which you take a photo of your receipts to get points towards cash back or Amazon vouchers. I also use food apps like Too Good To Go and Olío. These are food waste apps so they are good for the environment too! They offer large discounts on products that are near their best-before date or overstocked. Olío sometimes has free items, too. I am by no means a saving expert but I hope this helps. And remember, don't be afraid to give when you can and ask when you need to – together we will get through this current crisis.

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LETTERS

Renters' rights

Dear HCP

Private renters feel ignored by politicians. Yet, research by homelessness charity Shelter shows that our views on housing will influence the next general election.

To give a local example, 71% of private renters in Tottenham say housing policies will be a factor when deciding who to vote for at the next general election.

Years of promises to reform our broken renting system are meaningless until changes become law. The government must bring forward the Renters' Reform Bill.

Sofia Kollia
Shelter UK

A duty of care

Dear HCP

Your front page for issue 12 boldly refers to 'a duty of care'.

Certainly, landlords have a responsibility for maintaining their rented properties for the welfare of their rent paying tenants. But equally, with regard to the case detailed in your report, parenthood demands the same duty of care towards parents' children.

No-one wishes to live under the circumstances you describe, but to 'put up with it' for 13 years and produce four children with a fifth imminent defeats my sense of reasoning and makes me question what responsibility the parents have towards their offspring.

You report that the mother cannot work because of a medical condition, apart from being pregnant, and nor can the father, who has to look after the children. Yet the mother claims the right to have additional children and complains that Haringey Council will not house the family.

We are truly blessed to have a welfare state, but exceptions must be taken to its being so generally taken for granted for the offloading of individual responsibility.

Michael Jones
Wood Green

Time for change

Dear HCP

Your readers will be outraged to discover that Haringey Council – which currently has liabilities in excess of £1.5bn – approved a civic centre refurbishment scheme valued at £54m. This unnecessary expense, the council's enormous debt, and their purchase of Alexandra House in March 2021 for £22.6m (double the market rate), allows us to conclude that Haringey Labour simply cannot not be trusted to manage public money.

Haringey residents are burdened by issues such as rampant fly-tipping and high rates of crime. It is immeasurably disappointing that our elected councillors deem it appropriate to spend millions of pounds on unnecessary projects, rather than utilising public funds to tackle the borough's key issues.

After 51 years in power, Haringey Labour is no longer serving the public interest. If Haringey is to have a brighter future, the status quo must be broken. Labour is no longer working for Haringey.

Angelos Tsangarides
Tottenham

Joy to the world

Dear HCP

The British Turkish artist Gulsun Erbil's mosaic mural, which was created in 1986–1987 on Tottenham's Broadwater Farm Estate, has been Grade 2 listed, saving it from potential demolition. The mural represents and celebrates equality and diversity. London is one of the most multicultural cities in the world, with over 300 languages spoken in the city. The mural was commissioned straight after the riots on Broadwater Farm estate 37 years ago and stands proudly at the residential block, Tangmere House, representing acceptance, tolerance and the importance of unity.

Renk Martin
Tottenham

Send us your letters

We accept letters of up to 150 words from people and organisations in the borough. Email HCP@socialspider.com before Monday 14th November.

‘Drug policies are failing to reduce harm’

Tammy Hymas, councillor for St Ann's ward, on rough sleeping in the area and which community groups are genuinely making a difference

Living in Haringey, it's hard to ignore the growing problems we face with rough sleepers and related addiction issues. Between April and June this year, the number of rough sleepers in London rose by 16% with the government's inaction on the cost of living emergency pushing even more people to the brink of homelessness. People who sleep rough often face multiple disadvantages, including high levels of mental ill-health and addiction. With deaths from drug poisoning in England and Wales reaching their highest levels in 2021 since records began back in 1993, local authorities are facing an escalating epidemic.

In the area I represent, St Ann's, one of the most common concerns that I hear are around rough sleepers and people addicted to drugs. Whether on Green Lanes, in Chestnuts Park or around Seven Sisters Station, we have all sadly seen vulnerable people clearly in desperate need of long-term support. As a councillor, I'll be honest in saying that there are no easy answers to these issues knowing that our combined crises in addiction and rough sleeping require deep, systemic changes in how we approach our most vulnerable residents.

It's increasingly clear that the 'law and order' approach of successive governments to addiction and rough sleeping is not working. The criminalisation of drug use justifies state-sanctioned harassment of communities of colour through stop and search (Black people are nine times more likely to be stopped and searched by police

than white people) and leads to increased rates of incarceration. At the same time, almost two in five deaths of homeless people were related to drug overdoses in 2020. Put simply, drug policies are failing to reduce harm, and serve to maintain the oppression of poor, disadvantaged and ethnic minority communities.

hundreds of single people at risk of homelessness. Last year, Haringey became the first council in London to provide modular homes for those in desperate need of a safe and secure roof over their head.

Haringey also has one of the largest number of bed spaces for homeless people affected

by immigration restrictions in London, with our innovative practices in this area contributing to Homeless Link's best practice roadmap for tackling non-UK national homelessness across the country. Our decision to refuse to cooperate with the Home Office, who have threatened to make rough sleeping grounds for deportation, shows the difference a genuinely anti-racist party in power can make.

I continue to find hope in the many community groups who share my commitment to defending our most marginalised residents. In my ward, campaigners set up 'N15 Copwatch' who have held training on bystander interventions to monitor and



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The 'law and order' approach of successive governments to addiction and rough sleeping is not working
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When St Ann's residents have reached out to me, understandably worried about the wellbeing of street drug users, local police have been honest that their default approach of 'moving people on' only reinforces their instability. This is not sustainable. Equally, many rough sleepers have irregular immigration status and police intervention puts them at risk of deportation under our punitive border regime.

I'm proud of the public health approach to rough sleeping and addiction pioneered by Haringey Council since 2018. Our dedicated multi-resource hub at Mulberry Junction, which opened in 2019, has supported

oppose police harassment of vulnerable residents. Every Saturday, Haringey Anti Raids hold a stall on Green Lanes building a network to resist immigration raids. On Sundays, Streets Kitchen serves hot food at Seven Sisters, with their strapline 'solidarity not charity' encapsulating their approach to rough sleepers.

It's clear to me that the solutions to rough sleeping and drug addiction will not be found in ever greater criminalisation, but in approaches that prioritise harm reduction and deepening community resilience.

Tammy Hymas is a Labour Party councillor in St Ann's ward. If you are a resident, you can get in touch on tammy.hymas@haringey.gov.uk or 07814 373419

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- We are run by a small but dedicated team as part of a not-for-profit community interest company
- We hold authority to account, expose scandals, highlight inequality, promote good causes, and provide a platform for local people
- Every penny of income from HCP helps us deliver more journalism in Haringey
- The paper costs nearly £6,000 per month to produce and distribute, but monthly income is under £4,000 currently
- We currently have 78 supporters who contribute around 11% of our income, but we need more!

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