

## NEWS

Police investigation launched into council's property deals

PAGE 4

## COMMUNITY

A new creative studio launches in Tottenham  
*By Veronica Asenso Afriye*

PAGE 6

## FEATURES

The history of a Muswell Hill hospital  
*By Ben Nathan*

PAGE 8

## COMMENT

An introduction to cryptic crosswords – and £100 giveaway

PAGE 14



Alexandra Palace will be celebrating its 150th anniversary this month. Find the full story on Page 10 ►

## Council declares end to 'further mud events' in Finsbury Park as Cancer Research run halted

*Council moves to prevent repeat of extensive damage seen across the park from last month's Tough Mudder race*

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER & MIRIAM BALANESCU

**T**ough Mudder and similar running events will no longer be held in Finsbury Park following an uproar over damage caused during this year's event.

Haringey Council's deputy leader Mike Hakata made the announcement after revealing the event had caused "several weeks' worth of damage to the park".

He added: "To prevent the risk of this repeating, we have decided that this event will not be held in Finsbury Park going forward."

Another obstacle-style event, Pretty Muddy — which raises funds

for Cancer Research — was due to take place at Finsbury Park on 21st May, but on 26th April the council announced that it would be calling off the race. The council is now "working with [Cancer Research] to determine if the Race for Life Event will go ahead as planned."

Thousands of people took part in the Tough Mudder obstacle courses in April, churning up the grass and leaving large trails of thick mud through sections of the 110-acre park.

Tottenham MP David Lammy slammed the damage done to the park during the event, which was held following a spell of wet weather, as an "environmental disgrace".

The MP said on Twitter that he was "utterly appalled" by the damage and there were "serious questions about how and why this licence was granted, enforced and policed". The council said no licence was required for the event.

The Friends of Finsbury Park group said it was "devastated" by the damage, which the charity claimed would "make lots of the

park unusable for a good while".

Posting on Twitter, the group added that Tough Mudder was "not a suitable event for a public park in a densely populated urban area" and that it would make a formal complaint to the council over the damage.

Tom Graham, co-chair of the friends group, said it brought into question the council's ability to manage events in Finsbury Park following the recent announcement that other big events would be allowed to run for five years in a row.

Finsbury Park hosts several major events each year, including the three-day Wireless Festival. Tough Mudder, which saw runners brave obstacle courses ranging from 5km to 10km through the park, is classed as a "large event" that attracts up to 10,000 people.

Numerous other Twitter users expressed outrage over the damage. Sarah James, a former Haringey councillor, posted: "The park is a public space for everyone. It is now not usable and is extremely depressing to walk through and see the vandalism

that has been inflicted for profit. So many rely on the park as a place to relax and play and that has been lost. It will be like this for months."

The council said there was no damage to trees or other wildlife habitats as a result of the event. Under the local authority's policies, organisers are required to pay an environmental impact fee for each event, with the money raised invested in the park.

Following this backlash, however, the council has opted to cancel the charity event Pretty Muddy. Cllr Hakata, cabinet member for climate action, environment and transport, said: "We have hosted Cancer Research events in Finsbury Park for many years now. All, including the Race for Life and Pretty Muddy, have gone ahead without incident or negative impact on other park users, and have enabled thousands of people to get active and improve their health and wellbeing while raising vital funds for research to tackle cancer."

"Following the damage to the park caused by a recent Tough Mudder

Continued on Page 2



@HaringeyCP



HCP@socialspider.com



@HaringeyCP



@HaringeyCP



## Local news that matters to you

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> May

Mon 31<sup>st</sup> May



Waxing  
Gibbous  
85%/0.51



Waxing  
Gibbous  
82%/0.5

### 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.

### CREDITS

#### Publisher

David Floyd

#### Editor

Miriam Balanescu

#### Designer

Jonathan Duncan

#### Head of Advertising

Klaudia Kiss

#### Local Democracy Reporter

Simon Allin

#### Tottenham

#### Community Reporter

Olivia Opara

#### Contributors

Luke Newcombe, Lois Donegal, Rob Crich, Veronica Asenso Afriyie, Ben Nathan, Amoeba, Alessandra Rossetti

### CONTACT



HCP@social  
spider.com



020 8367 2975

### ADVERTISING



07711 057096  
Maia Wolf



maia@social  
spider.com

ipso. Regulated

HCP is regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). For more information on HCP's complaints policy and how to make a complaint visit: [haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/complaints](http://haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/complaints)



A mural on Langham Road at the junction with Langham Place, snapped by a local resident on their evening run. For your chance to have your pictures featured in our next issue, use the hashtag #haringey and tag us @haringeycp on social media **Credit** Ross Witt @rkdubbs

## AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE EDITOR

**H**ello and welcome to issue 19. This month, Finsbury Park has very much been in the spotlight — and not for good reasons. The fight between locals and Haringey Council first escalated when it was announced early last month that the council had struck five-year event deals for events at the park which were previously booked on a yearly basis. This all came to a head when Tough Mudder were given free rein to run amok in an area of the park planted with spring bulbs and orchard trees. Despite the event taking place in mid-April, the Finsbury Park fury and debate continues, with a recent op-ed in *The Guardian* decrying “renting out public land” and a feature in

*The Sunday Times* musing that the move towards muddy events may even be blamed on midlife crises.

I’m inclined to agree with *The Guardian’s* view — the need for councils to rent out land indiscriminately, ironically to the point that a space is unusable for those using (and paying council tax towards) it on a daily basis, seems a sad symptom of decimated council budgets. It’s been said many times: parks are absolutely essential for local communities, both as a meeting place and as a wellbeing booster. The area which has been pulped is a well-loved picnic spot for those of all ages.

Events in Finsbury Park are certainly not new, but I wonder if the pandemic, and the increased awareness of the

importance of green spaces in the city, has pushed our local community over the tipping point. Even on my most recent trip to the park, the grass had definitely not recovered from its trampling two weeks previously, and yet the space was being readied for the next event. Though the council has decided to cancel Cancer Research’s Pretty Muddy event, is this the best option and is there a long-term solution for future events?

It’s not all doom and gloom in Finsbury Park, however — in this issue, we celebrate ten years of the Park Theatre, while another major venue, Alexandra Palace, turns 150. Find our interviews with the venues’ directors on Page 10 and 12.

Another highlight of the issue is one of our first photo-led stories by Ben Nathan, delving into the history of Coppetts Wood Hospital. If you’re keen to contribute to *HCP* but struggle with writing, please reach out to [hcp@socialspider.com](mailto:hcp@socialspider.com) — we’re keen to hear your stories, whether visual, audible or more.

Finally, if you’re enjoying *HCP*, please do consider supporting us whether with a membership or one-off donation. *HCP* is a completely independent newspaper, and we truly rely on our readers to keep doing what we’re doing.

Enjoy!

**Miriam Balanescu**

### Continued from Page-1

event, we have decided there will be no further mud events in the park. As a result we have informed Cancer Research UK that Pretty Muddy will not be able to take place this year. We are still working with them to determine if the Race for Life Event will go ahead as planned. If it does this will be entirely on the path network to ensure that there will not be a repeat of the grass damage we saw last [month].”

Cllr Hakata added: “We have seen considerable rainfall over recent weeks which has saturated the ground and will need repair. This will be rectified as soon as possible, and any cost will be covered by the [Tough Mudder] event organisers.

“Tough Mudder events have taken place successfully for four years now, enabling thousands of people young



and old to enjoy the outdoors and improve their health and wellbeing, at the same time as raising significant funds for charitable causes.

“The impact of the event this year has caused several weeks’ worth of damage to the park, and as a result we have had to rethink our approach. To

prevent the risk of this repeating, we have decided that this event will not be held in Finsbury Park going forward.

“We are proud of our green spaces in Haringey and are working together with residents to make sure that our many wonderful parks remain vibrant and welcoming spaces for everyone to enjoy.”

“*The park is a public space for everyone. It is now not usable and is extremely depressing to walk through*”

Lynn Daly, Cancer Research UK spokesperson in London, said: “We’re grateful to everyone who signed up for this year’s Pretty Muddy Finsbury Park.

“Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, it hasn’t been possible to hold the Pretty Muddy event at this venue this year. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience or disappointment this causes. We’re in the process of getting in contact with our supporters about this now.

“We’d love it if, instead, people could join us at Pretty Muddy Clapham Common on Saturday, 27th May. Anyone who is unable to transfer to the new date will be entitled to a refund.

“The Race for Life 3k, 5k and 10k events at Finsbury Park are unaffected by this change and will go ahead as planned on 21st May.”



# New mural arrives in Bruce Grove

A new mosaic mural to celebrate the diverse heritage of Bruce Grove was installed last month.

The mosaic is an 18 square-metre glass tiled tapestry-like artwork weaved together to create an imaginative map of Bruce Grove, featuring key figures, places and historical events such as the Tottenham Carnival, Bruce Grove Youth Centre, Bruce Castle and Walter Tull, former Tottenham resident and one of English football's first Black players.

The mosaic is mounted to the wall under Bruce Grove railway bridge, designed to demonstrate its role as a junction and convergence point for different areas of Tottenham. The mural was co-created by local residents, businesses, community groups and resident artist Anna Nicolo in a workshop as part of the 'Pride in Bruce Grove' project – part of Haringey Council's Tottenham High Road programme.

Anna, who lives in Bruce Grove, is an Italian illustrator and graphic artist whose work is influenced by her graphic design background. She often combines bold geometric shapes with hand drawn elements to create playful and uplifting artwork.

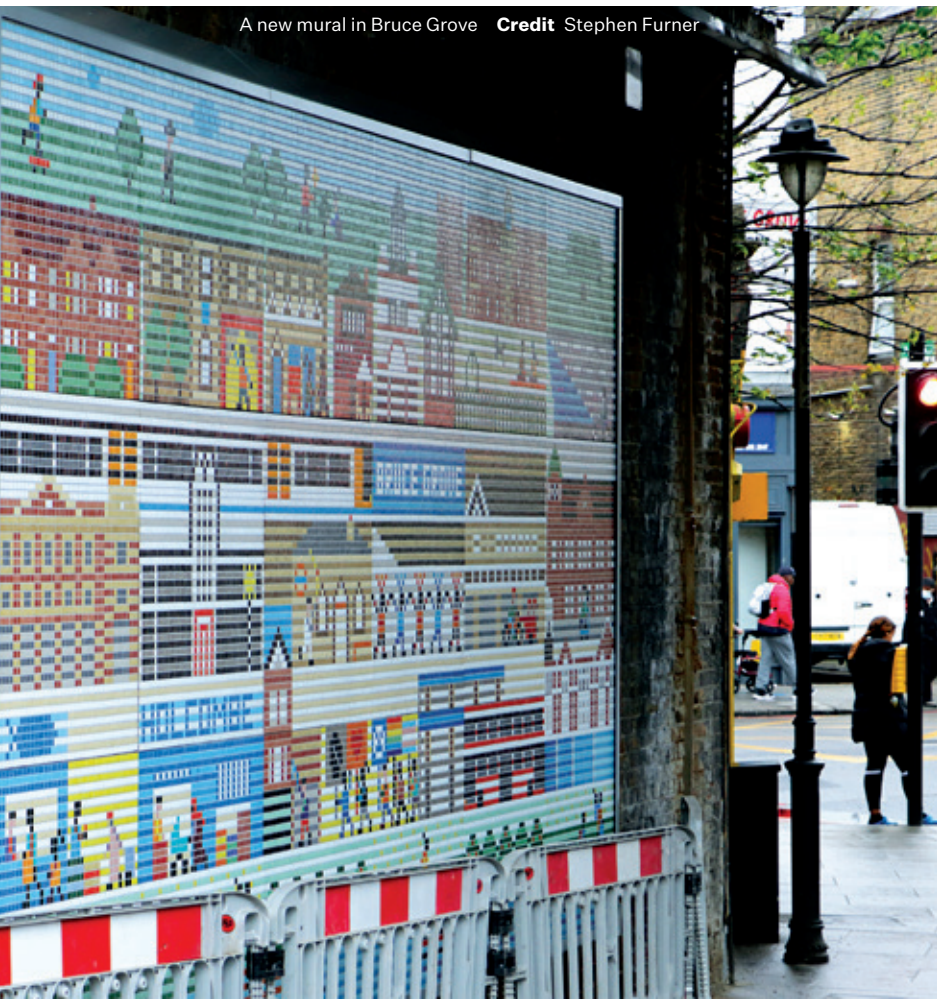
Anna said: "It's been great for me to be involved in the project and to learn things that I did not know about the area that I live in."

"I hope that the mural will be able to teach others, both the old and young, about the history we share, and inspire them."

The Pride in Bruce Grove project

## The public artwork is part of the Pride in Bruce Grove project, aimed at improving underused spaces

BY OLIVIA OPARA, TOTTENHAM COMMUNITY REPORTER



encourages the use of neglected public spaces by improving the area, so far including three artistic installations designed by local communities – providing opportunities and support for local businesses.

The first installation was a painted wall mural completed in summer 2022 which can be found behind Holcombe Market. The third and final installation will comprise planters and lampposts to be installed in the alleyway near Scotland Green in the coming weeks.

Ruth Gordon, cabinet member for council house building, placemaking and development, said: "I'm delighted that we've been able to install an incredible new mosaic in Bruce Grove. It's a beautiful piece of public art, and it's made even more special by the fact that it was created by local residents to highlight the diverse stories, places and people of Bruce Grove that they want to celebrate. I'd like to thank all the residents who've taken part together with local artist Anna Nicolo."

"This is part of our Pride in Bruce Grove project, which is empowering local communities to create public artworks in the Bruce Grove area. It's such a wonderful example of how we can work together with our residents to improve our public spaces. I look forward to watching this project develop as Bruce Grove continues to go from strength to strength."

To find out more, visit: [tottenhamhighroad.projects.commonplace.is/proposals/pride-in-bruce-grove](https://tottenhamhighroad.projects.commonplace.is/proposals/pride-in-bruce-grove)

# Council leader hails 'good' rating for Haringey children's services

Haringey's children's services have been rated 'good' for the first time in a turnaround hailed as a "significant milestone" by the leader of the council.

Education and children's services watchdog Ofsted said the borough had made "considerable progress in a challenging context", with the resulting "transformation" making a "positive difference to most children's lives".

The borough's children's services have been heavily criticised in previous years following high-profile cases such as the murder of Victoria Climbié in 2000 and the death of Peter Connelly, also known as 'Baby P', in 2007.

In 2018, Ofsted rated the children's services in Haringey as 'requires improvement' but the overall effectiveness was upgraded in a report published on 11th April.

Based on the findings of an inspection carried out in February, the

## Ofsted rating achieved for first time after years of struggles and high-profile abuse cases

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

report says that since 2018 "an ambitious and stable leadership team has made considerable progress and much of the service is now transformed".

Ofsted commends multi-agency partnership work as being "effective in identifying children at risk of abuse or neglect and providing the right support at the right time",

with children at risk of extra-familial harm benefiting from "bespoke, timely and targeted support to protect them and to disrupt exploitation".

However, the watchdog adds that there is "more to do to achieve the same level of progress in developing services for children in care", which it rated as 'requires improvement'.

*It is a turnaround we are rightly proud of and shows we're moving in the right direction*

Although some children in care are "supported well", the report says others have experienced "significant delay in achieving permanence", with "too many social workers", the lack of stability affecting some children's progress.

In a joint statement, council leader Peray Ahmet and chief executive Andy Donald described the Ofsted rating as "a watershed moment for Haringey".

They added: "This judgement is testament to the hard work and professionalism shown by our dedicated staff and the positive impact they have on the lives of children and young people. It is a turnaround that we are all rightly proud of and shows we are moving in the right direction."

"We, along with our partners, will continue to set ourselves high standards moving forward and the journey towards excellence will continue. This is a platform on which we will build, not the final destination."



# Council property deals report ‘utterly damning’

*An independent probe highlights series of failings and is now being handed to police*

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A “damning” report into Haringey Council’s past property deals, which suggests key information could have been leaked to a developer, will be handed to the police.

The independent report, commissioned in response to allegations over a string of high-profile transactions, found information on development sites could have been passed to a developer by a representative of the council.

According to the report, which was written by local government expert Chris Buss following an investigation, a council officer received a call from the developer – referred to only as “developer A” and involved in multiple sites – about matters that were on a confidential cabinet meeting agenda.

The report states that there is “no way of knowing how the developer received this information, but it does demonstrate links between either officers or members and developer A”, adding that this could have been a “one-off occurrence”.

It notes that potential redevelopment sites were publicly known for “a number of years”, so a developer could research and acquire land that would give it a “financial advantage” – but it is also “conceivable” that information could have been passed on by a council representative.

Buss was unable to interview several individuals due to a live police investigation into allegations of fraud linked to a proposed development at former care

home Cranwood House in Muswell Hill. But the report states that the “conclusions and recommendations” in the review are “valid”, adding that determining whether criminality was involved in any of the transactions is a police matter.

The 46-page report reveals that the council’s in-house property team was “run down” as part of the planning for the controversial Haringey Development Vehicle (HDV) – a public-private partnership due to start in 2018 but later scrapped following a change of leadership.

As a result, there was a “loss of corporate memory and a failure to adequately maintain records on property-related matters”.

The report refers to a “political desire” to be seen to be delivering a commitment to build 1,000 council homes “at pace”, despite the “structures to deliver a scheme of this size and complexity not being immediately in place”.

It also details a “toxic” atmosphere in the Labour group between 2018 and 2021, adding that “a number of the decisions that led to purchases being made may have been made to keep political interest groups assuaged”.

The report considers nine transactions, most of which took place following the change in policy after the 2018 council elections.

One of these is the purchase of Alexandra House in Wood Green – bought by

the council for more than £21million in 2020 after missing a chance to buy it for several million less in 2019.

The report reveals valuation briefs did not consider that the property could be bought by a developer for conversion into housing – which is what ultimately happened – meaning the council “eventually acquired the site at a higher price than it might have done”.

On Cranwood House – previously the subject of an investigation by the Local Government Ombudsman – the report states that the then-leader Joseph Ejiofor’s decision to unilaterally scrap the original version of the scheme in March 2020 “does not appear to be in line with council governance arrangements”.

The LGO previously said the council had not been even-handed in its approach to two residents whose homes were set to be demolished – one of which was bought by the council for £2.15m.

On another scheme, Gourley Triangle in South Tottenham, the report notes that in relation to one possible development agreement “there is no comprehensive audit trail to determine who authorised, decided or agreed anything”.

The report states that governance has recently been improved but sets out a number of key recommendations for the council to follow, including reviewing the leader’s

powers and reminding both officers and members that information contained in a restricted cabinet paper should not be passed to a third party.

Liberal Democrat opposition leader Luke Cawley-Harrison described the report as “utterly damning” and claimed it painted a picture “of a completely inept organisation which has wasted millions in public money”.

He added: “The council’s failure to provide key information like audit trails or details of its property management system, which should be standard in any local authority, is at best indicative of extreme incompetence, and at worst deliberate obfuscation.”

“All administration councillors and council officers must continue to work with the police whilst their fraud investigation continues.”

Council leader Peray Ahmet said she had commissioned the review because she was “extremely concerned about allegations surrounding various historic high-profile and controversial property transactions”.

Cllr Ahmet added: “We cannot change what happened in the past, but I am determined that we use this review to learn lessons and ensure we continue to build an effective property function with strong political oversight and transparent decision making. The report will be passed to the police.”

Former council leader Joseph Ejiofor said: “Issues flagged by this report are longstanding and predate both me and my successor’s leadership, but I’m glad that procedures will be both clarified and tightened up.”

Advertisement

TOT  
TEN  
HAM  
TEN  
SAT  
10  
06  
23



CHIP TIMED 10K  
TOTTENHAM MARSHES

ENTRY £23  
FREE places for 100  
young people (16-21)

CONTACT THE ENGINE ROOM  
T - 0208 808 5490  
E - info@engineroom.org.uk  
Follow - @stf\_engineroom

BOOK ONLINE AT  
[www.letsdothis.com](http://www.letsdothis.com)  
where dreams happen



**Waltham Forest College**



think  
**BIG**

**OPEN EVENTS**  
17<sup>th</sup> May & 7<sup>th</sup> June, 4pm-7pm

**Join us at our Open Event!**

Guided Campus Tour

Chat to Students and Staff

Interactive Taster Events

Apprenticeship Workshops

Admissions Advice and Guidance

Apply for a Course



Visit [waltham.ac.uk](https://waltham.ac.uk) or  
scan the QR code to register.

020 8501 8501

myfuture@waltham.ac.uk

707 Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JB





# New artists' studio in Tottenham takes flight

Multidisciplinary artist Veronica Asenso Afriyie has launched her own creative hub at Tottenham Hale's East London Studios – she shares the story behind the project

It's been weeks since we celebrated International Women's Day – a day that is the focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, violence and abuse against women, and economic uncertainty and distress. How can we make sure we actively work towards reducing gender-based discrimination, and how can we accelerate progress towards equity for those underrepresented in this sector and collectively contributing to a more equitable creative industry that challenges adverse social norms and siloed attitudes?

My passions have always led me to travel to various places to find new opportunities. Eventually, the urge to move to London came and

I decided it was time to make the move in 2017. It was a year of many drastic changes in my life which in



Artist Veronica Asenso Afriyie

hindsight was (unknowingly) the beginning of STUDIO 27°.

I found myself in several artist communities, from dance (vogue and hip hop) to DJing, yet I still felt a sense of loneliness, which was also linked to being a newcomer in a foreign country. Working with other creatives was inspiring, but came with a set of challenges, especially in an

industry that still is largely white and male-dominated.

I wanted to create a space where you can easily find your peers, improve your creative practice, increase opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and reduce obstacles to accessing digital tools for artistic creation and distribution. This in time included the prioritisation of mental health and wellbeing practices for artists and addressing the inequality we still experience in this sector, including racial and gender-based violence.

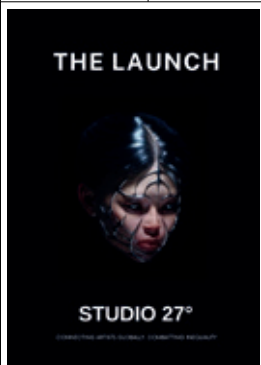
STUDIO 27° is at its core a creative studio that reinforces change to build the groundwork for an equitable creative industry that prioritises the wellbeing of artists, racial and gender equity and artistic expression. It's about creating an environment where women and non-binary artists can be safe and where the creative community as a whole can be supported in their personal and artistic growth, and social progress.

Art has always been a great tool for connecting people and bringing communities together. It has been vital in understanding the complexities of life and has provided people solace in times of need, holding up a mirror to reflect on ourselves. This begs the question: what kind of society do we choose to live in?

*“Working with other creatives was inspiring, but came with a set of challenges, especially in an industry that still is largely white and male-dominated”*

STUDIO 27° is about belonging, community, and reinforcing positive change for women and non-binary creatives who are disadvantaged, underrepresented and undervalued.

**The launch of STUDIO 27° will be held on Friday, 5th May at 6pm at East London Studios with a special film screening and art exhibition. To find out more visit [S27DEGREES.COM](https://S27DEGREES.COM)**



## Notes on gardening

*For HCP's new column, Grown22's Luke Newcombe and London Wildlife Trust's Lois Donegal explore the therapeutic benefits of green spaces in the borough*

**LUKE:** SINCE I WAS YOUNG, I always had an interest in the great outdoors. Prior to setting up Grown22, I had a yearning to get outside but, at the time, I worked in a state-of-the-art office with artificial light. I thought to myself that there had to be something better out there for me to do – so at the weekends, I started working on neighbouring gardens to build up an understanding of the type of work involved. The more time I spent working on gardens, the more my mental health and wellbeing improved.

It was proven during the Covid-19 lockdowns that green spaces provided a welcome escape for many people who did not have a garden. I knew GPs were prescribing programmes to encourage immersion in nature, but was unsure how to set one up in Haringey until I met Lois, the communities and youth officer from London Wildlife Trust.

**LOIS:** In March 2023, we began offering a series of community workshops focused on conservation, gardening, and wellbeing, providing new learnings and tools to inspire further new connections with nature for the community. I have made it part of my life to get outdoors in nature everyday if I can, though not everyone can find that time. However, working with nature in even the smallest ways is incredibly powerful for our mental health and gives us a sense that we can make a difference to the world around us. Finding new ways for communities to connect with nature is my passion, with a focus on young people who lack access to quality green spaces. There is no right way to connect with nature, but there are skills you can learn along the way, and the therapeutic gardening workshops are a good way to start.

**To find out more visit:** [wildlondon.org.uk/news/london-wildlife-trust-and-grown22-cic-announce-exciting-partnership-nextdoor-nature](https://wildlondon.org.uk/news/london-wildlife-trust-and-grown22-cic-announce-exciting-partnership-nextdoor-nature)

**Have something to say about nature or the environment in Haringey? Write in at:** [hcp@socialspider.com](mailto:hcp@socialspider.com)

## On the run

Rob Crich from Lordship Recreation Ground Parkrun celebrates the group's six month anniversary

In April, we celebrated six months of the Lordship Rec Parkrun. In that time, Parkrun has become a Saturday morning fixture for people from across Haringey and beyond, and a chance to stay fit, have fun, and meet new people in the local area. The numbers speak for themselves: we've welcomed nearly 2,500 different people and 150 volunteers already.

If you've not heard about Parkrun before, it's a worldwide initiative that takes place in parks across the world. It began in West London in 2004 and has now spread to over 2,000 locations in 22 countries. It reached Lordship Recreation Ground last October – although it already has a strong presence in

Haringey with races at Ally Pally and Finsbury Park. The event is free, run entirely by volunteers, and is open to everyone – we actively encourage people of all abilities to take part, whether they run, jog or walk.

One of the best things about Parkrun across the world is that the average time keeps getting slower. For the organisers, that's one of their greatest achievements! It shows that people who are coming to Parkrun are not just the usual 'running club crowd'. In our six months at Lordship Rec, we've seen the same pattern. Every week, we're welcoming people who have never taken part in a running event before but want to try it, or just come to a friendly community event for a walk or jog



and to meet their friends.

We want to celebrate a brilliant first six months and congratulate everyone who has taken part, not only for running, jogging or walking their weekly five kilometres, but for creating a wonderful, welcoming, fun community event. A special thank you also to all the

brilliant volunteers who have made Lordship Rec Parkrun possible, and also Lordship Hub, which has opened its doors early every Saturday morning to keep everyone refreshed with tea, cake and breakfast afterwards.

**To find out more visit:** [parkrun.org.uk/lordshiprecreationground/](https://parkrun.org.uk/lordshiprecreationground/)



# SMALL JOURNEY BIG IMPACT



## Recycling is closer than you think!



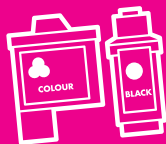
cables



small  
appliances



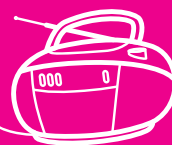
batteries



printer  
cartridges



mixed light  
bulbs



electricals



mobile  
phones



NORTH  
LONDON  
WASTE  
AUTHORITY





# Building for the past

Haringey-based artist Ben Nathan explains why Coppetts Wood Hospital in Muswell Hill is an architectural treasure that we need to protect

**C**oppetts Wood Hospital, originally Hornsey Isolation Hospital, was built in 1889 by the Hornsey Local Board. It stood on a site now occupied by the new development of The Folium, “a luxurious collection of one-bedroom shared ownership apartments located in village-like Muswell Hill.”

In 2017, local residents made an unsuccessful application to Historic England (HE) to list the remaining hospital buildings — after which permission was given for full demolition.

As a local resident and artist, I’m

fascinated by the former hospital and have photographed and researched it for the last decade, creating a rich visual archive. I believe local history offers us an insight into our local heritage and is a way of respecting the great efforts and the local pride which were invested by ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things. The hospital also features in the historical tome *Muswell Hill Revisited* by Ken Gay.

When I heard that the 130-year-old building was going to be demolished, I contacted the developer Catalyst Housing who generously granted me site access.

Spending two weeks there with my camera, tripod and hi-vis, by the beginning of September 2019, Coppetts Wood Hospital was totally destroyed.

The main entrance to the former administration building and entrance hall – with its ornate doorway surround, noted by Turley’s heritage teams for its “high quality” – was completely destroyed in this process.

As part of my research, I came across the ‘heritage management strategy’ on Haringey Council’s website. This has an important section entitled ‘respecting local heritage’. Here it explains how the

developer is expected to “retain, restore or reuse existing historic elements onsite”.

The document details a ‘heritage display’ or interpretation of the history of the site within the shared entrance lobby space of the main Block F of the new residential building.

Quite some time after the completion of the development, the heritage display had finally been installed in the form of four archival photos of the hospital and accompanying text.

However, there are still some mysteries, as in the text there is mention of the ‘heraldic





Front facade of Coppetts Wood Hospital, the former administration block, photographed from beyond the demolition site boundary in 2019. The character and appearance are representative of the late 19th Century and early 20th Century Queen Anne Revival style **Credit** Ben Nathan



crest’ and how “these elements have been reused where possible” but there is no sight of the heraldic crest onsite. Similarly, the HE advice report cites the loss of its clock tower as one of the reasons for the building not being listed. However, during their residence in the building, Camelot Property guardians witnessed the safe removal of the clock tower possibly by the then-owner of the NHS.

When we think of local history in Muswell Hill, we should think about Coppetts Wood Hospital. But how will younger generations get

to know about this place if the information is on display only inside a private lobby (that I had to sneak behind the post-person to see)?

Now more than ever, the importance of hospitals is undisputed, especially Coppetts Wood, which was primarily an isolation hospital for infectious diseases in operation until 2008. The hospital offers an insight not only into this fascinating area of medical history, but is also a memorial to the people who lived, worked and died within its walls.



**Left, top**  
Former main entrance to the administration block with ornate rubbed red brick and decorative terracotta door surround. The ornate door surround holds the Hornsey Borough Arms, with the motto ‘fortior quo parior’ (‘the better prepared, the stronger’)  
**Credit** Ben Nathan

**Right, bottom**  
The commissioned heraldic crest for Hornsey Local Board  
**Credit** Ben Nathan

**Left, bottom**  
The demolition of the main entrance to the former administration building  
**Credit** Ben Nathan





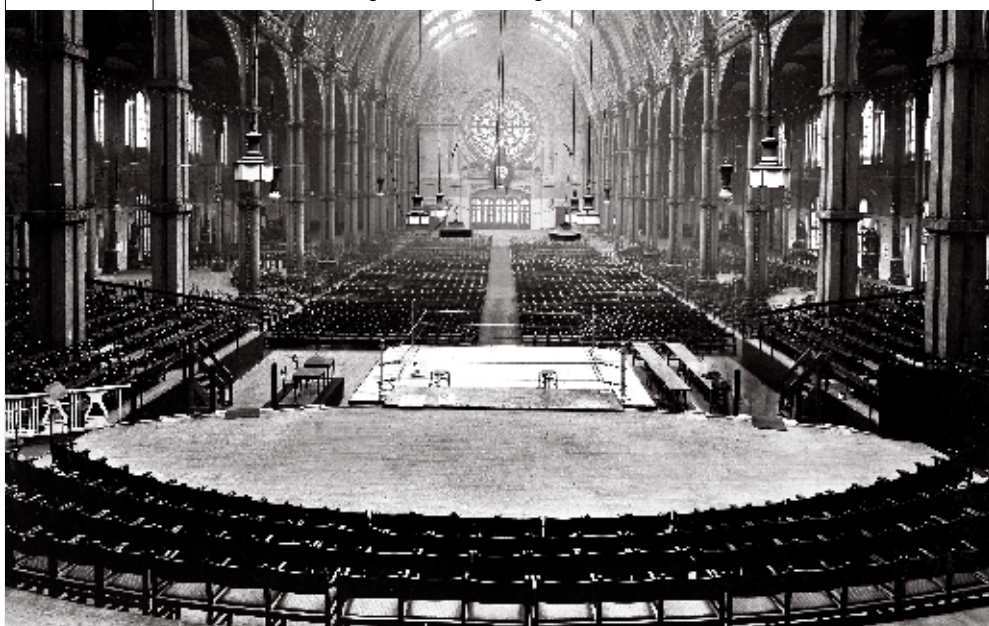
A second fire blazed through Alexandra Palace in 1980 ▼



The great hall at Alexandra Palace during the First World War ▼

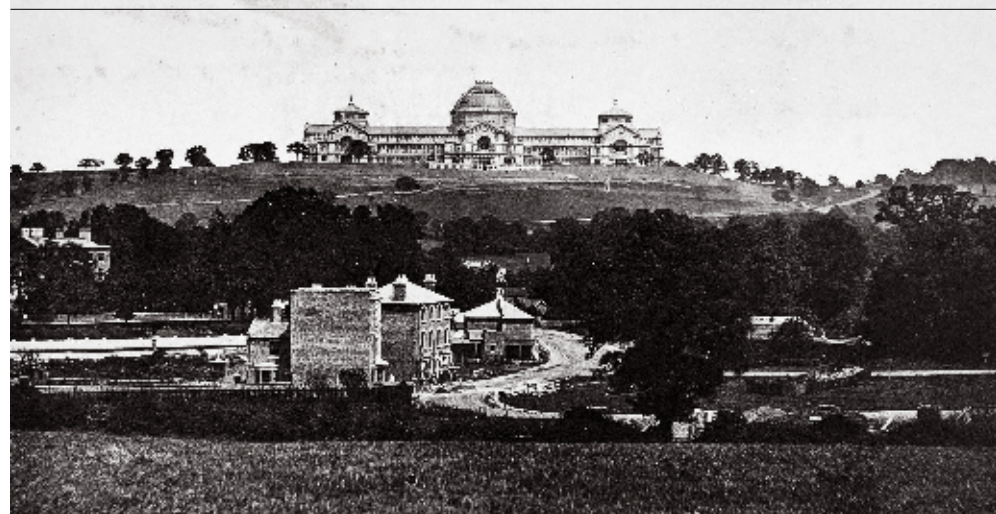


The stage is set for a boxing match in 1930 ▼



An aerial shot of Alexandra Palace in 1930 ▼

Alexandra Palace photographed in 1873 ▼



# Alexandra Palace celebrates 150 years

Miriam Balanescu speaks to chief executive Emma Dagnes to reflect on its history

Alexandra Palace is a quite literally unmissable part of life in Haringey – whether sighted on your over-ground commute to work, or a place where you go to walk the dog, or ice-skate in winter – and yet we rarely reflect on its history. Since it was built in 1873 by architects John Johnson and Alfred Meeson, named after the new Princess of Wales, Alexandra of Denmark, the immense building has survived a turbulent chain of events – not least burning to the ground only 16 days after opening. (Then again in 1980.)

The venue was originally intended to be a centre for relaxation, a sanctuary slightly away from the city and a rival to South London's Crystal Palace. "It was built by the Victorians as 'The People's Palace', when really leisure and recreation was something very new," explained chief executive Emma Dagnes. "For the Victorians, it wasn't something that had gone before with previous generations, this idea of promenading through parks or coming to watch Pompeii be set on fire every night on the boating lake at the palace."

"It was a real place of wonder and excitement, not knowing what you were going to find going around any corner."

This month, Ally Pally will celebrate 150 years in the only way to fit such an occasion: by hosting a free day-long party and throwing open its doors to the public, "giv[ing] everybody the opportunity to explore the park and palace and even go into areas which are normally not accessible," said Emma.

Throughout the past century and a half, Ally Pally has remained open to those on its doorstep, though not always in the same form. During the First World War, the palace was used to shelter Belgian and Dutch refugees, then as an internment camp for 'enemy aliens'. In the Second World War, troops from Dunkirk used its grounds as a 'staging area', while, in the Cold War, a Royal Observer Corps bunker was stationed in the park, only deactivated in 1990.

"Alexandra Palace always serves its community in a moment of crisis, and particularly with the pandemic, we were the largest North London food distribution centre," said Emma. "Compassion London were cooking up to 3,000 meals for the most vulnerable in our community a day."

Its history is certainly not all hinged on moments of catastrophe, however. The BBC founded their first ever television studios in its dining rooms in 1937. "They specifically chose Alexandra Palace because they needed the height for the mast," said Emma. "They converted what had been former Victorian tea rooms into Studio A and Studio B, which was a procurement race between two organizations."

The Baird Company and Marconi-EMI each made their bid for their technology to be used in the first ever broadcast. "They were in this arms race of technology," urged Emma. "Everything that has come since is based on what was achieved at Alexandra Palace."

Of its spaces which can hold up to 7,500 people, some have

been given a new lease of life. Its theatre, for example, was closed to the public for 90 years, only renovated in 2012 with funding from the National Lottery. "We had a £27million project to bring this extraordinary space that has so much history and narrative woven into its walls back to life," said Emma, explaining that their aim was merely to bring the space back into use. "As part of the refurbishment, we wanted people to feel that wonder that we had felt when we were first able to walk into the space."

Emma added: "You learn something new at Ally Pally pretty much every single day. Even though I know this building incredibly well, there are still times when I go on tour and I just happen to turn left rather than right and find a room that I haven't necessarily been in before."

An important part of that history is also the individuals who have shaped the venue, with Emma's favourite the writer and parachutist Dolly Shepherd: "She used to throw herself out of hot air balloons as a part of entertainment."

Today, Ally Pally still plays an important part in the lives of locals. "My husband's grandmother was actually born in Tottenham, and she didn't move out of the borough until she was 99," recalled Emma. "She used to say to me that Ally Pally is like a grandparent that sits on the hill watching generations go by, and I thought that's a really great way of describing it."

**Ally Pally's 150th Birthday Party is on Saturday, 27th May at 12pm**



HCP

# Calling all Crouch End and Muswell Hill businesses!

Haringey Community Press is the only newspaper dedicated solely to Haringey borough. We launched as Tottenham Community Press in 2016, but relaunched as a Haringey-wide publication under a new name in 2021. We now distribute 15,000 copies of our print edition across the whole borough every month.

**If you run a business based in Crouch End or Muswell Hill, we want to welcome you as an advertiser with a special 10% discount on your first print advert with us.**

**Promotion Code: LoveCrouchEnd+MuswellHill**

To use the special discount code email [maia@socialspider.com](mailto:maia@socialspider.com) and put the promotion code in the subject line.

**Terms and Conditions:** Discount in this offer applies to businesses and individuals based in Muswell Hill or Crouch End. This promotion discount can be combined with other long-term booking discounts. Discount can be applied once per business for adverts booked until 2023 August.





## Food for thought

For the first of a new column, Bibi at Chriskitch Café in Muswell Hill shares her story and celebrates May's culinary offerings

▲  
Fresh, seasonal  
salads are  
served daily at  
Chriskitch Café

In 2013, I and my husband chef Chris opened Chriskitch Café on the site of a former chocolate factory. We wanted fresh, fabulous, and affordable food to be the focus — food that is prepared, shared, eaten and enjoyed with relish.

We cook and bake the daily changing menu every day from locally sourced produce. Colourful salads jostle for space with main courses, the scent of freshly-baked breads hangs in the air, whilst locally-sourced artisan coffee beans rattle in the machine. There is no menu — what you see is what you get (well, besides the delicious soup offering of the day which isn't on display). We cater for everyone — meat/fish-eaters, vegetarians, vegans, gluten free — and take inspiration from seasonally-changing produce we find in local shops which we aim to support.

We want Chriskitch to be a space to socialise with friends or colleagues during a work break, to show and view local art, connect with people and enjoy cookery classes. We want to make customers feel like they were eating in someone's home. The food counter is an old joiner's bench sourced from Poland, the one in the service area came from a previous paper mill in Essex. Even our floorboards were reclaimed from a former textile factory in Islington and the main dining table is a well-worn butcher's block from France. The food is served on a variety of antique platters and cake stands — some used to belong to my Polish grandma!

Our favourite thing to make in May is a green seasonal salad: boil water in a large pan. Add salt and 150g green fine beans, 150g sugar snap peas, 150g mangetout, 50g frozen soya beans and 50g green peas. Blanch for 30–40 seconds then drain and transfer to very cold water. Drain well. Put all the beans, peas and soya beans into a large bowl. Add the zest of two lemons, one bunch fresh mint, 50ml extra virgin olive oil or garlic oil, half a red chilli thinly sliced, salt, pepper and herbs for garnish (can be dill, parsley and coriander). Transfer to a platter to serve.

To find out more visit: [chriskitch.com](http://chriskitch.com)

I  
N  
T  
E  
R  
V  
I  
E  
W

# Park life

## As Finsbury Park's theatre celebrates its tenth birthday, Miriam Balanescu meets co-founder and artistic director Jez Bond

In 2010, Jez Bond and his wife Melli discovered an office block in Finsbury Park. It was empty and unassuming, but, yearning for a space to convert into a new arts venue, the couple only saw its potential. They snapped it up — and embarked on a relatively budget £2.6million conversion.

"It was already split level, it was a bit of a Tardis, it had decent street frontage," said Jez. "Most importantly, we were right next to the tube."

Jez, a theatre director, and Melli, an actor, had long been looking for a space they could transform into a theatre of their own. They partnered with Audiences London to find out which locations would be the best fit.

"Their data showed that in Finsbury Park and the surrounding areas was the highest percentage of London-based theatre goers into the West End," explained Jez. "There was an opportunity to actually have an already theatre-savvy audience who we could tap into but at the same time being in the back garden of one of the largest council estates in London at a time where government cuts year-on-year meant that young people weren't given those opportunities that I was given. [That] meant that we could go in and be a positive change for the community." And so — Park Theatre was born.

Putting down roots was a top priority for Jez, whose globe-trotting theatre work had prevented him being able to pin down a theatre community. "I slightly missed having bricks and mortar, having a base, because the audiences that I would see in Switzerland or Austria or Hong Kong were all completely different

audiences," Jez said. "I like the idea that you can have a base and you can nurture an audience, see the same faces coming in day in and day out, work with them to curate shows, give them a couple of things they like and expect and then maybe something a little bit unexpected."

And fostering that community has also been crucial to the theatre's survival. Before its first season, Jez and Melli made sure to get Park Theatre quite literally on the map, taking theatre-lovers, celebrities and local communities on "hard-hat tours". "I knew opening a theatre was not going to be an easy feat, and opening a theatre at that time when people were saying, 'oh god, you're opening in a recession,'" explained Jez. "I wanted to make sure that by the time we opened there was already a buzz. We would take people around, giving them steel toe-cap shoes and hard hats. By the time we opened three years later, we had shown around over 2,000 people."

“  
*Were we not blessed by  
having such incredible  
local support, we  
may have not survived  
the pandemic*  
”

Ahead of its opening in 2013, the theatre had a star-studded show of support — since then, the likes of Miriam Margolyes, Ian McKellen and Dame Maureen Lipman have taken to its stage. This month, Park Theatre



Choir master Gareth Malone attends a press night, which often attract national celebrities

celebrates its tenth birthday — in this time ushering in seven Olivier nominations and seeing seven shows transferred to the West End.

However, the experience hasn't been all plain-sailing. "The biggest hurdle is always consistent: it's funding," stated Jez. "The biggest moment of that, of course, was during the pandemic, where we were facing liquidation. Were we not blessed by having such incredible local support, we may have not survived the pandemic."

The theatre prides itself on its in-house productions, something they hope to do more of. The celebrity-scattered *Whodunnit* series has been a particular highlight, Jez said: "That has brought in such an inspirational and eclectic range of people from the creative industries, from people like Jim Broadbent and Emma Thompson and Gillian Anderson, to people you might think are a bit more left field: Ronan Keating, Johnny Vegas, Lee Mack and David Mitchell. It's just been a wonderful experience to have so many people who love Park Theatre and understand who we are wanting to come and support us and do a turn."



Jez Bond on a 'hard-hat tour'

**ADVERTISE WITH US**

Placing adverts with your local community newspaper supports us to deliver more high-quality local journalism in the borough! Get a quote: Email [maia@socialspider.com](mailto:maia@socialspider.com) Call 07711 057 096



## Gig

**Amaraterra and Mr Morski**  
Saturday, 13th May, 8pm  
The Post Bar, 316 High Rd N15 4BP

A 'European folklore focused event', this concert from two independent London performers brings together Italian and Balkan influences. The ensemble Amaraterra hails from south Italy, Salento, specialising in traditional Pizzica folk dance rhythms — a style of music with Greek-Roman roots. The group was founded in 2011 in London, making it truly multinational and cross-cultural. Mr Morski is a composer and performer who was born in Bulgaria, noted for his work with Django Ze and bringing an irresistible Balkan rock fusion sound.

**Tickets from £6**  
**Visit** thepostbar.co.uk

## Exhibition

**An Occasional Dream**  
Thurs, 4th May–Thurs, 15th June  
Bloqs, 2 Anthony Way N18 3QT

Local artist Sara Captain pays tribute to the musical icon David Bowie, naming her exhibition after his release of the same name. The exhibition will showcase both portraits and abstract works by the painter, created with the bold brushstrokes which are Sara's trademark. The exhibition and launch party will be held at Bloqs, which claims to be the UK's largest open access workshop and artist community.

**Free entry**  
**Visit** buildingbloqs.com

## Nature

**Harington Spring Sale and Open Days**  
Sat, 6th May–Sun, 7th May  
54 Cholmeley Park, Highgate  
N6 5AD

For any gardening fanatics, the Harington spring sale and open day promises to be the perfect place to pick up plants to grow your own herbs and vegetables or decorate the house. A raffle will also be held, while refreshments will be served in the walled garden, along with a craft, cake, jam and chutney sale. Live music will be performed courtesy of the Metropolitan Brass Band – all in the name of a good cause. Harington is a local charity supporting young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

**Free entry**  
**Visit** harington.org.uk

## Sport

**London Skolars vs Rochdale Hornets Betfred League**  
Saturday, 13th May, 2:30pm  
New River Stadium,  
White Hart Lane N22 5QW

Watch as Wood Green's rugby league club London Skolars competes against the Rochdale Hornets of Greater Manchester. The Betfred Championship is the Rugby Football League's second-tier championship, and this event in Wood Green will be an ideal opportunity to watch the team play at home.

**Tickets £10-£15**  
**Visit** website-skolarsrl.com

## Fundraiser

**Dance for Ukraine**  
Saturday, 13th May, 11am–1pm  
Fortismere School, Tetherdown,  
Muswell Hill N10 1NE

Following on from their December fundraising event which raised £4,000 towards supplies for Ukraine, Driving Aid to Ukraine will be organising another community dance event. The idea is simply to move and shake it, steered by fitness instructor Gemma Barlow of GemmaB Fitness and her team of dance instructors. The event will be suitable for those of all ages – just make sure to wear comfy clothes and bring a bottle of water.

**Tickets vary**  
**Visit** drivingaidtoukraine.org

## Exhibition

**The World of Gazza!**  
Throughout May  
OOF Gallery, Warmington House,  
744 High Road N17 OAP

An exhibition which aims to celebrate Paul Gascoigne as a 'serious cultural figure', football and art fans alike will find something to enjoy here. OOF has combined new work from the likes of Douglas Gordon, Lydia Blakeley, Glen Pudvine, Beatrice Lettice Boyle and Rosie McGinn with memorabilia, artefacts, film footage, archival material and '90s tat.

**Free entry**  
**Visit** oofgallery.com/current-exhibition

## Comedy

**So...**  
Weds, 3rd May, 7.30pm  
Jacksons Lane Arts Centre,  
269A Archway Rd N6 5SS

From the winners of the Herald Archangel at Edinburgh in 2019, Ridiculusmus – aka David Woods and Jon Haynes – a pair of estranged brothers attempt to reconcile their differences while sorting through their late mother's estate. The show began life over Zoom, dealing with themes of separation, Brexit, and Covid-19.

**Tickets from £12**  
**Visit** jacksonslane.org.uk/events/so/

Advertisement

## Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

**London Symphony Orchestra of The Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS** is applying for a licence to use **Unit 16, Lockwood Industrial Park, Mill Mead Road, London N17 9PQ** as an operating centre for **one** goods vehicle and **one** trailer.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre (s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

## Haringey harmonies

*Choirs are often pillars of communities. As a new youth choir is launched, Miriam Balanescu gets to know these musical groups around the borough*

According to research by the University of Oxford, it is estimated that a staggering 2.8million people in the UK are choir members, and there are countless studies into the health and wellbeing benefits of being part of one.

Haringey is home to a wealth of choirs, from Bounds Green Community Choir, to the Tollington Gospel Choir and Muswell Hill's own 'popchoir', the multifariousness of genres, sizes and locations a reflection of the diversity of our borough's own residents.

London Youth Choirs (LYC), for those aged seven to eleven years old, has recently brought its melodic meetings to Tottenham's Bernie Grant Arts Centre as part of LYC North East. Over the past month, the group has been holding free auditions to build on its 50-strong members.

Rachel Staunton, co-founder and artistic director, said: "We realised that geography was a barrier to taking part in our choirs so we wanted to go out to members to save them the cost of travel and to work more closely with local communities."

With previous performance opportunities including a chance to sing alongside the London Philharmonic Choir and London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, the first chance to appear onstage for Tottenham will be at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday, 9th May, in a choir of 1,500 children.

Rachel added: "Singing is such a joy bringer and confidence builder for young people."

Vanessa, assistant leader at LYC, said: "In an area where many families face inequity, poverty and hardship, it is wonderful to be a part of this inclusive group, knowing that any child that considers joining the choir will be supported to take part in potential life-changing opportunities in the future."

LYC North East is not alone in boasting an impressive performance history. The Crouch End Festival Chorus was founded in 1984 by John Gregson and David Temple MBE, who remains music director, as an offshoot of Crouch End Arts Festival. Clive Barker, horror writer and John's partner, provided the "horror-gothic poster to attract local singers", which



Members of London Youth Choir South West culminated in a performance of Verdi's *Requiem* in the town hall.

This fortuitous group of singers then went on to grace the stage at Glastonbury with Ray Davies and take centre-stage at the first night of the proms in 2010 and 2022 – and will make its 17th appearance this year. The choir's patrons also include the likes of Hans Zimmer, Noel Gallagher, and Debbie Wiseman OBE – even Ennio Morricone is a past patron.

"We've been lucky enough to work with most of them," said David. "In the early days, Sir Colin Davis was a huge influence and helped me enormously on my conducting journey. I conducted a very young Bryn Terfel in 1987 and then many times after that including the Verdi *Requiem* in 1990 at Hornsey Town Hall. We recorded a lot of film music around the turn of the millennium which led to the great Ennio Morricone requesting us for all his UK concerts from 2001 to 2018. Ray Davies and I first collaborated for a project at the Norfolk and Norwich Festival in 1998. Hans Zimmer had heard our film music recordings and asked to work with us for his UK tour. Debbie Wiseman wanted us for film soundtracks, most recently *Lesbian Vampire Killers*."

As a result, the group has gone from local to global, but still retained its Crouch End name. "It's one of our USPs," David explained. "I think it hindered us in the early days but it may have made a few people scratch their heads, particularly when we started to get some high-profile engagements. Now I think it's a real asset. It's one of the things that makes us stand out."

"Our North London roots are very important to us – our rehearsal home is Fortismere School in Muswell Hill since 1993, and the recently-restored theatre at Alexandra Palace, which has glorious acoustics."

Haringey offers a huge array of



Members of Crouch End Festival Chorus Credit Zoe Norfolk

rehearsal venues, though some are more unusual than others. V&J Ensemble, founded 2008, initially took its name from Alexandra Park Library, where its members would congregate.

"One of my French students talked to me about a project happening at Alexandra Park Road Library," said Veronica Chacon, its music director. "Its manager, Sandra Menzies, and a bunch of regulars wanted to create a library's choir in order to sing some carols for Christmas."

"Libraries are unique and alive places in the heart of the community which brought interest to our little group."

Its 30 singers have a repertoire of French, English and Latin music, also using the work of local composer Jérôme Royet and the choir's lyricist Marion Turner. "When singing together, we are sounding together and literally tuning into each other," urged Veronica. "Everybody knows the powerful impact a beautiful voice or another live instrument has on the body, mind, and mood."

But whatever the type of music, only people who have experimented singing in a group get a holistic understanding of this type of experiment."

For the Stapleton Singers, who frequently fundraise for WaterAid UK and the Shelter Project, this community aspect is key. "It's a fixed point of the week when we all come together away from the mundane daily routine for an uplifting experience, singing in harmony, without any pressure, as the choir welcomes all singing abilities and backgrounds," said group members, including Sue Marris.

"Meeting on Zoom weekly during lockdown was another highlight, as it sustained us and kept us together during a difficult time, lessening the sense of isolation," Sue added. "When the restrictions lifted slightly, we met outdoors to sing in each other's gardens. Those were joyful sessions, banishing the gloom. We even gained members who overheard us!"

Camilo Menjura, the choir leader, said: "The big moments come when as a result of teamwork, practice, support and trust, the choir produces a powerful sound that wouldn't have been impossible to produce without every single person in that room. Choirs are, in a way, an example of how societies can and should work."

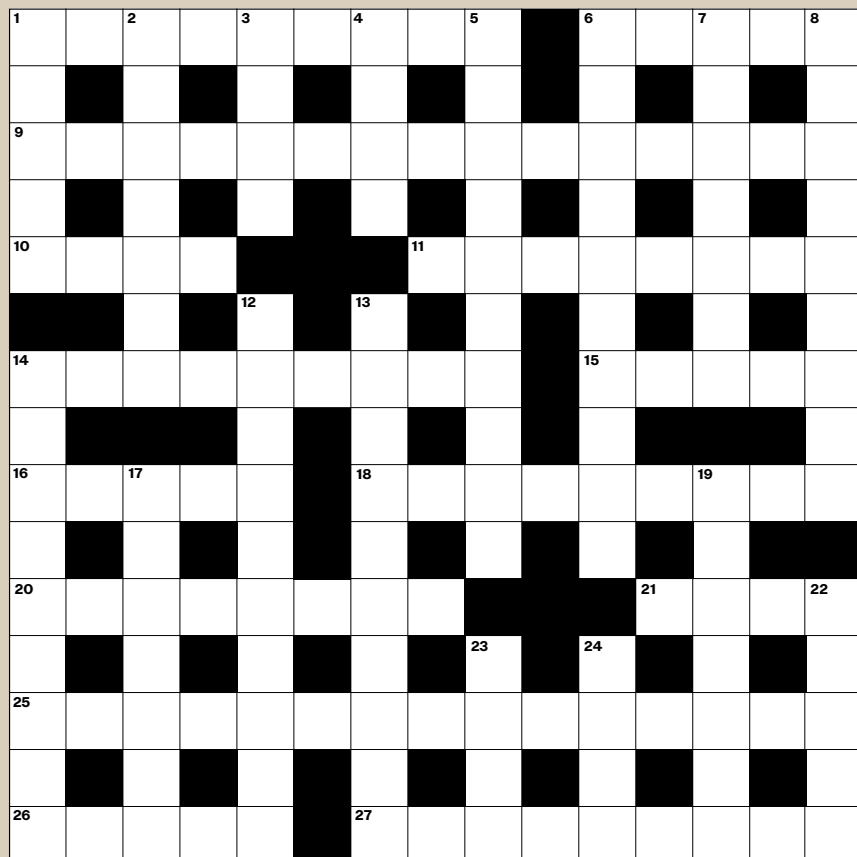


▲  
Crouch End Festival Chorus musical director David Temple Credit Zoe Norfolk



## Crossword N° 1

Win a £100 prize bundle from All Good Bookshop, Bohem Taproom and Jiddler's Tipple



## ACROSS

- 1 Kitchen utensil stops party (9)
- 6 Small plates of cooked pasta (5)
- 9 Before long, run a Tenerife hut badly (2,3,4,6)
- 10 In short, Christopher Ecclestone's back in shape (4)
- 11 Set of characters regularly able to wear mountain headgear (8)
- 14 Ones that seize muscles (9)
- 15 Rushed back to grab princess's bottom (5)
- 16 Greek character amid the waves in shade (5)
- 18 Very happy, or put out? (9)
- 20 Element of ghastly ringtone (8)
- 21 Struggle with belief (4)
- 25 Doctor recording chats after scientist's first thought experiment (12,3)
- 26 Gritty fringes of society (5)
- 27 One who denies any gear is dodgy (9)

## DOWN

- 1 Discoverer of DNA is a pain in the neck (5)
- 2 Went around with letters from Trot at Edinburgh (7)
- 3 While speaking, burn sage (4)
- 4 Some are effortlessly making bank (4)
- 5 Language game's tricky without any sound (10)
- 6 Critical instruction for Duck Duck Goose (5-3-2)
- 7 Measured purple cot (7)
- 8 That woman was the first to keep theirs regularly protected (9)
- 12 The main subject? (10)
- 13 Joining, protecting one serving (10)
- 14 They start fires on stairs, carelessly close to curtains (9)
- 17 Briefly making a bid to get involved (5,2)
- 19 Nervous tic on display at last (7)
- 22 Drink wine and then eat ravioli for starters (5)
- 23 Fruit eaten by pug litter (4)
- 24 Love god's tender, being head over heels (4)

## How (most) clues work

1. There's a definition at one end, and wordplay at the other
2. The clue will either tell you what to do, or it's one thing after another
3. Every word does one job: as part of the definition, the wordplay, or linking the two

# An introduction to cryptic crosswords

*A Haringey local who goes by the setter pseudonym Amoeba lifts the lid on a puzzling world*

Welcome to the world of cryptic crosswords, where a banker can be a flower or a runner, and a Manx cat might be detailed...

If you've never tried a cryptic before, it might look like gobbledygook. But the basic rules are straightforward. In most clues there are two parts, a bit like an equation: a definition (at the start or the end), and some sort of wordplay. Each word does one job – as part of the wordplay, the definition, or 'linking' the two. Your task is to work out which bit is the definition, and how the wordplay leads to it.

Sometimes the wordplay is just one thing after another, or sometimes there's an 'indicator'. For example, a word suggesting chaos or change might mean you're looking for an anagram (but it might also be playing a different role...). In other clues there

might just be two definitions with no wordplay, and others might be 'cryptic definitions', where the clue is a sort of pun.

Cryptics are largely exercises in looking for synonyms, especially short ones. Probably the hardest part for beginners is abbreviations, which often come from science, music, or cricket. There's a learning curve, but it soon becomes second nature.

There's lots more help I could give, but I'd take up the entire paper. A quick hint: ignore the 'surface reading' of a clue. Try to split up phrases and take each word on its own – think about other meanings a word might have, and ways to pronounce a word that might change its meaning.

And finally, there's no such thing as cheating. If you want to use a dictionary, or an anagram solver, or look up lists of birds, go ahead.

I hope you enjoy the

challenge. If you want more, there's lots of free puzzles online, as well as explainers, like *The Guardian's* weekly crossword blog, the website *FifteenSquared.net*, or 'Cracking the Cryptic' on YouTube (although they usually solve harder puzzles). There'll also be an explanation of the answers to this puzzle on the HCP website once the competition's closed. Happy solving!

**The first reader with the correctly completed crossword will win a £30 All Good Bookshop voucher, £50 bar tab at Bohem Tap Room, and a £20 mixed pack of beers at Jiddler's Tipple. When you've completed the crossword, simply send your solutions to [hcp@socialspider.com](mailto:hcp@socialspider.com).**

**For more information about All Good Bookshop:**  
Follow @allgoodbookshop  
Visit [allgoodbookshop.co.uk](http://allgoodbookshop.co.uk)

**For more information about Amoeba:**  
Visit [mycrossword.co.uk/Amoeba](http://mycrossword.co.uk/Amoeba)

**For more information about Bohem Brewery, based at 120A Myddleton Rd, N22 8NQ:**  
Visit [bohembrewery.com](http://bohembrewery.com)

**For 20% off online orders at Jiddler's Tipple, use the discount code 'HCP':**  
Visit [jiddlerstipple.com/collectionsa](http://jiddlerstipple.com/collectionsa)



**Sign up to the HCP newsletter:**  
[bit.ly/3nUI9fS](https://bit.ly/3nUI9fS)

Advertisement

## Absent freeholder notice

Notice is hereby given that **Jan Sebastian Verjwis and Lalla Malika Ben Silmane** are the leasehold owners of Flat 1, 14 Umfreville Road, London, N4 1SB ("the First Property") pursuant to a lease dated 25th July 1988 and made between John Stephen Williams and Steven Thomas Dawson and wish to exercise their right to acquire the freehold under the Leasehold Reform Act 1976 ("the Act"). Further, Emily Maryanne Akeroyd and Craig Douglas Porter are the leasehold owners of Flat 2, 14 Umfreville Road, London, N4 1SB ("the Second Property") pursuant to a lease dated 15th April 1985 and made between John Stephen Williams and Kenneth John Gardner and also wish to exercise their right to acquire the freehold under the Leasehold Reform Act 1967 ("the Act").

An application will be made to the County Court at Edmonton for an order vesting the freehold of the Properties in them under Section 27 of the Act since they have been unable to give Notice to the Freeholder/Landlord because his identity cannot be ascertained. Any person claiming to be the Freeholder/Landlord of the Property must confirm their interest as such, or any person with information which may assist in identifying the Freeholder/Landlord should contact Hayley Mauro of Wilson Browne Solicitors, Kettering Parkway South, Kettering Venture Park, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 6WN within 14 days of the date of this notice through any or all of the contact details below:

**Address:** FAO Hayley Mauro, Kettering Parkway South, Kettering Venture Park, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN15 6WN.

**Email:** [Hmauro@wilsonbrowne.co.uk](mailto:Hmauro@wilsonbrowne.co.uk) | **Ref:** 190398/0001



## High street hell

Dear HCP

The low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) are having a devastating effect on local businesses. On Myddleton Road, famous for its small businesses, shops are losing 15% to 20% of their trade due to the Bounds Green LTNs. A recent survey reveals 75% of shops say they will close or relocate in the next 18 months. Similar stories are coming from Lordship Lane and Green Lanes. These businesses are pillars of the local community and must be protected — Haringey Council needs to pull out the LTNs.

James  
Bruce Castle

## Fire safety fears

Dear HCP

My 90-year-old grandfather has been a resident of Craven Park for over 40 years. One evening around bedtime, the fire alarm system installed by Haringey Council actually set on fire.

A quick-thinking, vigilant neighbour (realising the danger to the entire block) rang 999 and the London Fire Brigade (LFB) promptly turned up. The LFB removed other pieces of dangerous electrical equipment which had been installed by the council.

It then took almost four weeks for the council to even arrange a visit to the property to inspect and correct the faulty equipment. During this time, my only option was to sleep in the property every night to support my grandfather during this unsafe time.

My grandfather has several damp patches which have been reported and unchecked for several months. His recently installed kitchen currently drains into next door's kitchen, often overflowing the plumbing, something which has also been reported several times.

I am not from this area but I am truly appalled by the way that the local council treats their elderly and infirm tenants. They seem to rely on tenants not being able to complain about the poor duty of care they are shown.

I have spoken to many of my grandfather's neighbours and they all have horror stories to tell about the dangerous maintenance from the council.

I am writing this open letter to let you know that you are not alone...

Andre McLeod

## Bus stop chaos

Dear HCP

Early last year, our newly appointed council leader's debut address in *Haringey People* magazine said that it was time for change and that residents' voices should be heard.

Travellers who use buses in the Wood Green area will be well acquainted with the peak hour chaos at the stop outside Morrisons, and also the perilous inconvenience caused by irresponsible street planning at Wood Green Station's Stop D.

Repeated reports to Transport for London (TfL), which included a practical solution to the Morrisons bus stop chaos, have been characteristically ignored. Similarly, reports to Haringey's planning department regarding the unacceptable problem, which included several possible solutions, have also been stubbornly rejected.

It is surely time to ask who actually runs our elected council and to whom its various non-elected departments are responsible. Who hires and fires?

The total voter turnout at our last local election was an incredibly disappointing 34.44%, which indicates that Labour was voted into majority office by a feeble 20% of Haringey's electorate!

That such apathy exists in Haringey says little for the prestige of its governing bodies.

Michael Jones  
Wood Green

## Step forward

Dear HCP

Our councillors need to prioritise improving our streets in their upcoming term to help people choose cleaner and healthier ways to travel.

The benefits of people walking more are plentiful, from increased physical activity and better health to reduced congestion and cleaner air.

Ahead of National Walking Month this May, walking charity Living Streets has set out seven steps to create better places for walking in their 'Blueprint for Change'. Steps include maintaining pavements, improving pedestrian crossings, and investing in public transport.

All these measures can make walking a safer and more attractive option and help bring our communities and streets to life.

Zac Nicholson  
Harringay Ladder

# How can we monitor value for money provided by council services?

*Alessandra Rossetti, Lib Dem councillor for Alexandra Park ward, on how residents can hold Haringey Council to account*

As a local councillor, I often hear residents complaining about not getting enough value for money from their local authority for services like housing demand and repairs, waste collection, road and pavement maintenance, and leisure activities. As a local resident I think that too. Let's take, for instance, the case of the Fusion-run leisure centres in Haringey. Many readers will be familiar with the recent maintenance issues that have caused the closure

of the public pools for almost three months. At the time of writing, Tottenham Green Pools and Fitness (and Marcus Garvey Library and Customer Service Centre) still remain closed.

The main question raised by all residents who have contacted me – after 'when will the pool reopen?' – was 'how did we get to this point?', with the obvious follow-on questions: 'is Haringey Council monitoring its contracts?'; and 'is there a service level agreement with the companies who run services for the council?'

Councillors and residents have been reassured that there will be more routine visits by the leisure team to assess day-to-day service quality such as cleanliness, established leisure centre user panels, and mystery shopping visits, benchmarked against alternative leisure providers. A specific email address for residents ([fusion.enquiries@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:fusion.enquiries@haringey.gov.uk)) has also been set up. These are all changes that the Liberal Democrats have called for, and we are glad the council

is finally acting, but the point remains: why wasn't this stuff already in place?

It isn't possible for residents or even individual councillors to monitor how every penny of council tax is spent, especially the technicalities of how services are contracted and monitored. Monitoring controls in procurement of goods and services could be a powerful tool for the local authority contracting the services. But does this happen in Haringey? Fusion's leisure centres are just the latest case

complaints report. The number of complaints from residents has increased by almost 50% from 2020/21 to 2021/22 to 1,980, with the number of more serious 'level 2' complaints increasing by more than 60%. During the same period, the number of complaints replied to on time decreased from 87% to 78%. Unsurprisingly, the main reason for complaining remains 'poor standards of service'.

So, as residents, how can we monitor the value for money provided by the council's ser-

vices? In addition to direct queries, one way would be to empower your elected representatives, by copying in councillors to your complaints or writing to them about it. Questions about Fusion only started being raised when residents started contacting councillors directly. The sad truth is that individual complaints raised on the council online forms do not achieve the same results, whereas councillors can add pressure when we see a pattern of complaints.

And, to conclude on a positive note, following the correspondence we have received from residents, a request from the Liberal Democrat opposition has resulted in the delivery of leisure services being included in the incoming audit plan. So, we may find out how Fusion-run leisure services are monitored in Haringey and how this service can be drastically improved after all.

To contact Cllr Alessandra Rossetti  
Call 07976 977 911  
Email [alessandra.rossetti@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:alessandra.rossetti@haringey.gov.uk)



*"The number of complaints from residents has increased by almost 50%"*

of questions raised on the level and quality of services provided by contractors – I'm sure residents are aware of the repeated failings in waste services, repairing of potholes or resurfacing of roads.

At the end of March, Haringey released its annual

Send us your letters

Email [HCP@socialspider.com](mailto:HCP@socialspider.com) before Monday 15th May



# WE NEED YOUR HELP



## WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE IN HARINGEY WHO CAN HELP SUPPORT US TO PRODUCE MORE HIGH-QUALITY LOCAL JOURNALISM IN HARINGEY COMMUNITY PRESS

- We have NO shareholders
- We have NO wealthy backers
- 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 102 supporters who contribute around 11% of our income, but we need more!

**Can you help us? Our membership scheme has many different options depending on your ability to contribute. Rewards include having a copy of the paper posted to you every month. Local businesses and charities can also sign up and access discounts on advertising.**

**Find out more at:** [haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/membership](http://haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/membership)

## OUR CURRENT MEMBERS

Michael Buchanan, Susie Fairweather, Peter Corley, Ole Hedemann, Andrew Leimdorfer, Caesar Gordon, Cherry McAskill, Susan Moyse, Ed Anderton, Karin Lock, Sarah Moore, Robert Lindsay-Smith, Theresa Kemp, Neil and Julie Le Milliere, Adzowa Kwabla-Oklikah, Ann Walsh, Diana Shelley, Emmie Robson, Nasser Baston, Jean Gray, Joe Culleton, Fiona Brindle, Carsten Jung, Juliane Heider, Niv Hachlili, Neville Collins, Christina Egan, Ruth Valentine, Matthew Dickinson, David Kitchen, Daniel Becker, John Power, Laura Dawson, Lewis Nebel, Annabel Gregory, Brian Cathcart, Trea Clenaghan, Nicholas da Costa, Michael Bimmmler, Taylor Burge-Paxson, Anne Gray, Alicia Charles, Lucy Nabijou, John Field, Manuela Michel, Alan Bentley, Michael McDonough, Elodie Sarvaiya, Jessica Owens, Alicia Pivaro, Amelie Noack, Clare Davies, Catharine Perry, Martin Laheen, Tricia O'Dell, Candy Amsden, Daniel Henrique Alves, Michelle Howard, Joe Hart, Robin Taylor, Jamila Wolf, Rita Gayford, Hannah Kuchler, Jonathan McKinley, Stuart Gillings, Emma Archibald, Lucie Holloway, Lynda Jessopp, Amanda Lillywhite, Emily Darko, Quentin Given, Rennah Satsuki Mills, Adam Saltiel, Peter Richards, Alyson Bradley, A Fairer Chance CIC, Lila Wisbeach, Ben Rider, Sally Sturgeon, Joe Reeve, Narmada Thiranagama, Livingston Gilchrist, Anton Root, Aryan Tehrani, Mick Egan, Justin Hinchcliffe, Ogo Okafor, Jason Sarris, Pamela Harling, Mike Hodges, Amit Kamal, Sophie Anne Cowper, Mary Hogan, Ed Shepherd, Michael Passingham, Sally Hart, Suwaibah Iffat, Haringey Learning Partnership

