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An image from the May 2022 issue of HCP featuring the newly painted Wood Green Library mural. HCP celebrates its second birthday this month Credit Stephen Furner

Ongoing safety fears at places of worship as Israel-Palestine conflict 'imported to the UK'

Local religious groups have said that their members are 'scared to go out alone' following attacks and abuse

BY MIRIAM BALANESCU

Leaders of local religious groups have said they face ongoing safety fears, even saying the conflict in Israel and Palestine has been "imported to the UK".

Haringey Community Press spoke to representatives from synagogues and mosques in the borough, who said that antisemitism and Islamophobia

is a rising threat. One spokesperson said that they know Muslim women who are "scared to go out alone" following attacks and abuse.

Since the attacks of Hamas (an Islamic terrorist group which governs Gaza) on Israel on 7th October, officials have warned that antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crime would increase in the UK as a result of the conflict.

The Metropolitan Police reported a 1,350% increase in hate crimes against Jewish people from 1st October to 18th October compared with the same period last year (from 15 to 218 offences), while Islamophobic offences had increased by 140%, from 42 in 2022 to 103. Meanwhile, arrests following alleged offences remain low, in just under 7% of cases.

Extra security measures have had

to be implemented at places of worship across London, with mayor of London Sadiq Khan working with faith leaders to offer practical guidance and calling for increased neighbourhood reassurance patrols – investing £10,000 in a new 'community resilience champions' programme. City Hall's resilience team and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) are continuing a rolling programme of security visits to London synagogues.

Khan said: "The suffering and loss of innocent life in both Israel and Gaza is truly heart-breaking and my thoughts are with all those impacted. It's vital that we don't allow events overseas to spill over onto our streets in London and I want to reassure both the Jewish community and the Muslim community that we will take

a zero-tolerance approach to any Islamophobia or antisemitism.

"I'm continuing to work closely with the police and community leaders to ensure our communities feel safe, and are safe, as they go about their daily lives. Our city is united against all forms of hate and we will continue to do all we can to support faith leaders and communities as we build a safer London for all."

However, the leader of Highgate Synagogue, Rabbi Nicky Liss, said that they have had to take separate action amid increasing safety fears: "Sadly, we have had to implement enhanced security measures due to the heightened concerns following the pogrom in Israel, though we are so grateful to the local police who have been looking after us with extra patrols."

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Local news that matters to you

1st Nov

30th Nov

Waning Gibbous

90%/0.5

Waning Gibbous

85%/0.51

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

Clayre Bennett, Joan Curtis, Ian Christie, Cllr Sarah Williams

CONTACT

HCP@social.spider.com

020 8367 2975

ADVERTISING

07711 057096

Maia Wolf

maia@social.spider.com

ipso

Regulated

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An Edwardian painting of Finsbury Park boating lake, archived by Hugh at Haringgay Online. For your chance to have your pictures featured in our next issue, use the hashtag #haringey and tag us @haringeycp on social media Credit haringayonline.com

EDITOR'S LETTER

Hello and welcome to issue 25 of *Haringey Community Press*.

This month sees a special issue for us, as we celebrate two years since *HCP* was first printed and arrived at newsstands around the borough. Firstly, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported, contributed to, or even just picked up a copy of the paper since it was first out in the world. It's no secret that the climate for independent media and local news is becoming more and more difficult, and so we are so grateful for all the support you as readers have shown us. As an independent outlet with no big funders, it would be impossible for us to continue producing high-quality local journalism without our readers and supporters. It has been incredibly rewarding – and often moving – to see members of the local community championing the paper, and it makes the hard work of our team worth it.

On pages 4 and 5, we reflect on two years of *HCP* and its history so far. *HCP* grew out of *Tottenham Community Press*, which was first published in November 2016 by the small social enterprise Social Spider CIC. On page 4, we showcase an article from our issue marking the one-year anniversary of *TCP*, 'The 'Nicola Adams Effect'', and another great community contribution from the final issue of *TCP* – before it became *HCP*! Articles by members of the local community have been an integral part of *HCP* – we have been so lucky to hear from so many diverse voices in the community and learn things we otherwise never would have known about our borough, from local history to important present-day initiatives. Since *HCP* was first published in November 2021, we have built on our Tottenham roots, with Tottenham Community Reporter Olivia Opara maintaining links with the community and focusing on bringing important stories from the area to light. As we expanded to cover the entirety of Haringey, the work of our Local Democracy Reporter Simon Allin has been crucial to covering under-told stories on housing and public services, and helping to hold local authorities to account.

We hope this two-year anniversary is the first of many. Once again, thank you for all your support, stay tuned through our newsletter, socials and website for birthday celebrations, and hope you enjoy reading!

Miriam Balanescu

► Continued from Page-1

Liss added: "In and amongst all the tragedy, it is such a shame that the conflict is imported to the UK by those looking to cause us harm. We pray for peace and that it happens swiftly with no more loss of innocent lives."

Teachers and parents have also expressed concerns around the safety of children, with three Jewish schools in nearby Barnet deciding to close – though Jewish schools in Haringey remain open.

of them have been attacked and abused. We have heard reports of students being intimidated in university; Muslim doctors being maliciously reported for their pro-Palestine stances.

"This has led to a worrying chilling effect and fear within our congregation. We hope and pray that this war will end soon and urge our politicians to call for an immediate ceasefire so many innocent lives from both sides can be saved."

Throughout October, Har-

doing all we can to help our communities feel safe at this challenging time.

"Alongside council officers and other partners, I attended a series of meetings last week to listen to residents' concerns and reaffirm our support. This included a joint visit with my Hackney colleagues to South Tottenham and Stamford Hill on Wednesday to meet with our Orthodox Jewish communities, a meeting with Muslim residents at Wightman Road Mosque last month, and a meeting with the borough's Jewish community leaders which I hosted last month.

"We have always been clear that there is absolutely no place for hate of any kind in our borough – so it was great to see our communities come together last week to mark Hate Crime Awareness Week. I was particularly touched last month when I joined a meeting of the Haringey Multi-faith Forum at the London Alevi Cultural Centre, organised as part of this programme. It was inspiring to see representatives of our diverse faith groups stand together with a common message advocating for dialogue, solidarity and unity in the face of hatred.

"This spirit of togetherness embodies everything that is great about our borough, and this is exactly the approach we will be taking forward as a council as we continue to support our diverse communities."

The Metropolitan Police has been approached for comment.

Haringey Council terminates Fusion leisure centres contract

The move comes after a series of long-running issues and closures of leisure facilities in Haringey

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Haringey Council has pulled the plug on its contract with leisure provider Fusion Lifestyle after failing to reach a negotiated exit.

The council will cut ties with the leisure charity by the beginning of October next year – twelve years into what was originally set to be a 20-year deal to run the borough's sports centres.

It comes after a series of problems at the centres, with the swimming pools at Tottenham Green Pools and Fitness remaining closed after electrical systems were flooded in December last year. Residents have also complained over dirty facilities at the centre, and in 2019 four people had to be taken to hospital following a chlorine gas leak.

Pool closures affected Park Road Pools and Fitness in Crouch End earlier this year after the council found automatic chemical dosing systems were not working properly, meaning chemicals were being added to the water by hand.

Council leader Peray Ahmet and cabinet member for culture, communities and leisure Emily Arkell

said the authority had originally sought a "negotiated exit" that would allow it "to pursue a new way forward for our leisure centres at the earliest opportunity".

But the council triggered a termination clause in the contract after negotiations stalled, meaning the deal will come to an end following a one-year notice period.

Cllr Ahmet and Cllr Arkell added: "We understand that residents may be frustrated by the time that this process is taking, however we are convinced that this is the best way forward towards our long-term ambition to deliver a high-quality leisure and wellbeing service which gives residents access to the full range of support they need to live active and healthy lives.

"We will continue to work with Fusion to ensure continued delivery of services across the three sites that it currently manages, and to address outstanding issues including the ongoing closure of the pools at Tottenham Green."

In addition to the centres at

Tottenham Green and Park Road, Fusion also manages Broadwater Farm Community Fitness Centre. New River Sport and Fitness in White Hart Lane was previously outsourced to Fusion but came back under the council's control in 2021.

The civic centre will decide on the future management of the sports centres following a review of leisure provision, which began in June. Options could include bringing the

Fusion's performance in running our leisure centres has not been good enough for a long time

Commenting on the decision to end the deal with Fusion, Luke Cawley-Harrison, leader of Haringey Council's Liberal Democrat opposition group, said: "Fusion's performance in running our leisure centres has not been good enough for a long time, and this move will be welcomed by all those who use the facilities.

"In the meantime, the council must continue to work to reopen the swimming pool at Tottenham Green as quickly as possible and ensure that Fusion doesn't let standards deteriorate."

A Fusion spokesperson said: "Our focus will remain committed to the delivery of the contract while offering support to the council to achieve their objectives."

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Nov 2023

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Park Road Pools and Fitness

NEWS

Two years of Haringey Community Press

This article was originally published in issue 51 of TCP, the final issue of the newspaper before it relaunched as Haringey Community Press

Leaping lemurs

Ring-tailed lemurs spotted in Tottenham



The lemur mural
Credit James Straffon

West Green resident Stephanie Grant has commissioned local artist James Straffon to create a mural of ring-tailed lemurs, associated with the island of Madagascar.

Stephanie recently spent time in Madagascar as a volunteer, helping with a conservation project looking to increase habitat for lemurs, which are under threat because of deforestation on the island. She returned with a love for the Malagasy people and a passion for Madagascar's unique lemurs. Familiar with some of the existing, animal-themed street artworks in her neighbourhood, Stephanie took the opportunity to commission James to create a bespoke artwork of her own.

As well as being a dramatic addition to the urban landscape, the completed mural in Stanmore Road represents much more than a visual celebration of Stephanie's experience in Madagascar.

Madagascar is the fifth largest island in the world, however despite considerable natural resources, it is one of the world's poorest

countries. It's estimated that 75% of the population live below the international poverty line. The country is severely impacted by climate change, facing on average three cyclones per year; it is currently experiencing its worst drought in four decades. According to the United Nations, 1.14 million people are on the brink of starvation, thousands have left their homes in search of food, and living conditions are extremely difficult.

Stephanie said: "I hope the piece acts as a talking point and catalyst for people wanting to learn more about Madagascar, its wildlife and people."

"Madagascar particularly needs our help at the moment. Not only is much of its wildlife under threat – 80% of which is found nowhere else on the planet – but the country is undergoing a devastating famine. Now, ongoing drought is making things even worse. Some areas haven't seen rain for over three years, with even cacti, which people eat the flowers of in hard times, failing to bloom."

"Hopefully the lemurs bring a smile to passersby, but if just one person goes home and decides to do something to help the people or wildlife of Madagascar that will truly make me smile."



Artist James Straffon
Credit James Straffon

The following article was printed in issue 8 of Tottenham Community Press, released January/February 2018 shortly after the newspaper celebrated its first birthday



Nicola Adams
in action at
the Olympics

The 'Nicola Adams Effect'

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

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

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

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

Fast forward to today, Adams is the first woman to win an Olympic boxing title – she is the 2012 and 2016 Olympic gold medalist in the women's flyweight

division. She is the reigning Olympic, World, Commonwealth Games and European Games champion at flyweight. In 2012, she became the first female boxer to receive an award from the Boxing Writers' Club of Great Britain.

Adams signed with promoter Frank Warren and made her professional debut on 8th April 2017 in Manchester and celebrated a clear first victory. She now lives and trains in California, in the same team as former world champion Amir Khan. The only other woman in the team is the American Marlen Esparza, a world amateur champion and Olympian who has also turned professional and is her partner.

Adams passed through her former training ground on Tottenham High Road in the summer of 2016 and continues to be an inspiration to youngsters training at the gym. She is still registered with Haringey Boxing club as a Haringey boxer.

"It is 50–50 physical and mental," Adams says. "You can be the strongest boxer in the world, but if you don't have that belief, you will get nowhere. Sometimes I can see that doubt in an opponent's eyes, and I know I will win."

The following article was published in issue 5 of HCP in March 2022

The birth of cinema

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

Where was cinema invented? If you ask most people this, in my experience, they either don't know, or believe it was those clever brothers Lumiere in France. This has been so often repeated that it usually comes as a complete surprise that the answer lies much closer to home – in Muswell Hill, as a matter of fact, during the summer of 1898.



A replica kinescope Credit Ian Christie

A new exhibition at Hornsey Library aims to reveal 'the lost world' of the studio where this pioneering work took place. The Animatograph Works was developed by an electrical instrument maker, Robert Paul, with his wife Ellen, a former dancer at the Alhambra music hall in Leicester Square. Paul had been commissioned to make kinoscope

peepshow machines when these were a novelty in 1894. When he saw the queues forming to sample moving pictures, he was hooked, and moved quickly to develop a projector and camera.

He wasn't the only one to see the potential of this new apparatus. Thomas Edison had developed the kinoscope, and there were other American pioneers who saw that projecting with a magic lantern was the way forward. And those Lumiere brothers in Lyon? Like Paul, they were inspired to improve on the kinoscope; and their cinematographe – which is where we get the word 'cinema' from – actually made its debut in London on the same day that Paul showed his theatrograph, in February 1896.

Hold on, you're probably thinking – that doesn't make Robert and Ellen Paul the inventors of cinema? What does, as the new exhibition shows, is their decision to move from central London to the new suburb of Muswell Hill, in



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

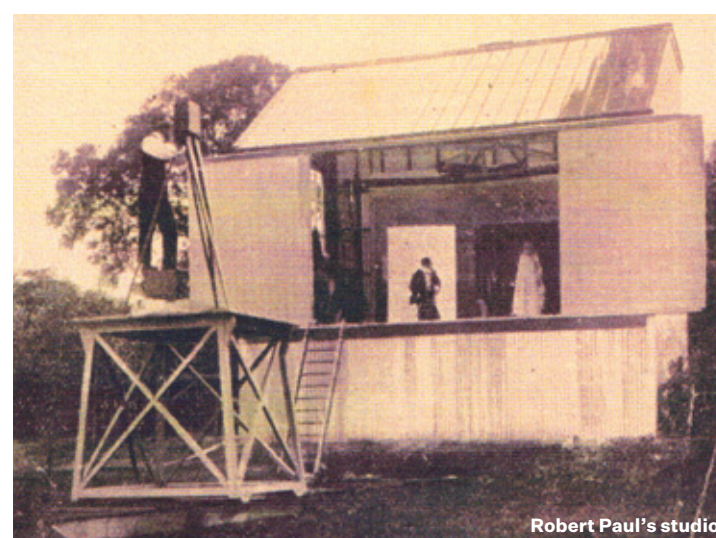
Visitors to the exhibition can see these, as well as a selection

"It wasn't far away, in France or Hollywood"

of Paul's surviving films, in a special video. These include a glimpse of one of Alexandra Palace's Victorian attractions, a *Switchback Railway* ride, and a madcap chase through the streets of Muswell Hill as angry citizens chase *The Unfortunate Policemen*. I've created this exhibition as part of a campaign to encourage the local community to discover more about how cinema started.

It wasn't far away, in France or in Hollywood. It was actually in North London, with Robert and Ellen showing other pioneers what was possible. And producers around the world were quick to take note, producing many early remakes.

Sadly, Britain has been slow to recognise that we were indeed first off the mark. But then, we don't take movies as seriously as France and America...



Robert Paul's studio

The following article was published in issue 1 of HCP in November 2021



Parkland Walk Chewing Gum Art Trail

Words and photos by Joan Curtis

On a sunny Saturday morning last month, I went along to the launch of the Parkland Walk Chewing Gum Art Trail created by Ben Wilson. Ben is a local Muswell Hill artist, known as the 'Chewing Gum Man', who spends a lot of his artistic life transforming discarded chewing gum into brightly coloured, mini works of art. Human creativity is vital for Ben. His chewing gum images are inspired by people he meets; they evolve out of the environment they inhabit, giving them a social context. His art is a process of observation, exploration and imagination.

The Friends of Parkland Walk care for and protect the nature reserve that runs from Finsbury Park to Muswell Hill along the route of a disused railway line. They knew of Ben's work and, with money provided from their own funds, along with crowdfunding from more than 100 donors, they engaged him to develop a trail of his art along the length of the walk.

17 commissioned pieces, roughly marked by wooden posts, are dotted along the path. You have to have a good eye to spot them as they are only around 5cm in diameter and some are surrounded by vegetation. You may also spot more than the commissioned 17 that are there. Ben was very generous and expressive in sharing his thoughts and descriptions of each work with the 70+ people who turned up for the entertaining and informative launch.



Housing Ombudsman warns Haringey Council to improve compliance record

Haringey Council has pledged to make improvements after failing to comply with a watchdog's orders to speed up its handling of housing complaints.

The council is among the landlords with the highest levels of non-compliance with complaint handling failure orders issued by the Housing Ombudsman, which investigates complaints against social housing providers.

The ombudsman makes the orders to ensure a landlord's complaint handling process is accessible and consistent, and enables the timely progression of complaints.

A report published in September revealed the council failed to comply with two out of three orders issued by the watchdog between April and June this year.

Only Southwark Council and Barking and Dagenham Council fared worse, failing to comply with three orders each.

Housing Ombudsman Richard Blakeway said: "It is exceptional for us to issue a failure order and every one comes after several attempts to engage the landlord. For a landlord to receive several and not comply indicates its

Haringey Council is among the landlords with the highest levels of non-compliance with complaint handling failure orders issued by the Housing Ombudsman

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER



complaints procedure is not working as it should.

"The result is residents continually waiting for redress and landlords missing opportunities to put something right sooner.

"It is vital landlords assess their complaints procedure as the complaint handling code becomes statutory. This means

ensuring its complaints team has the resources and leverage within the landlord to do its job."

Earlier this year, the council pledged to spend an extra £5million to address "major and systematic failings" in the running of its housing stock, which was insured from council-owned company Homes for Haringey in June last year.

Efforts to boost its housing repairs are being held back, however, by neighbouring London boroughs poaching staff with better pay offers. Repair workers in Haringey are set to strike over pay in November and December.

Sarah Williams, the council's cabinet member for housing services, private renters and planning, said: "We are actively working with the Housing Ombudsman to ensure we improve our complaint handling process.

"We have made a number of changes that include upskilling staff as well as a complete overhaul of complaints handling so that we have robust processes in place and can respond effectively.

"We have also agreed a dedicated action plan with the Housing Ombudsman to apply best practice and will continue working hard to get this right."

Haringey's housing repair workers prepare to strike as pay offer rejected

A trade union is warning of major disruption as housing repair workers in Haringey prepare for a winter campaign of strike action over a pay dispute.

Staff in the council's housing repairs team are set to stage six days of strikes in November followed by a further walkout in December, after rejecting a national flat-rate pay rise of £1,925.

Trade union Unite says the offer amounts to a real-terms pay cut and follows years of wage freezes and below-inflation increases that have left almost half of its members struggling to pay their bills.

It says Haringey Council is also refusing to up the London weighting – a pay supplement designed to cover the higher costs of living in the capital – and increase annual leave for housing repair workers in line with other staff.

The council says the strike relates to a national pay dispute. But Unite says the national bargaining agreement for local government sets out minimum standards, and local authorities can agree better terms and conditions for workers if they wish to do so.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham

Staff are set to stage six days of strikes in November followed by a further walkout in December

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

said: "Haringey Council faces a winter of strike action. It's totally unacceptable to seek to enforce yet another real-terms pay cut while refusing to improve terms and conditions in line with other councils. Even Haringey's director of housing services admits there's a problem.

"Unite will be providing members across Haringey with its complete support"

Walkouts are planned from 1st–3rd November, 15th–17th November, and 18th–24th December.

The planned industrial action follows earlier strikes by repair workers on 25th September and 2nd October.

It comes after Haringey Council's director of housing services and building safety admitted neighbouring boroughs are offering higher salaries and poaching

staff, holding back efforts to improve repairs performance.

A survey of Unite members working in local authorities found 48% have struggled to afford heating, electricity and water bills; 30% have struggled to afford food and clothing; and nearly a quarter (23%) are skipping meals to save money.

Sarah Williams, the council's cabinet member for housing services, private renters and planning, said: "This strike relates to a national pay dispute affecting several councils across the country. This is a process in which we as a council have no direct role and do not wish to undermine.

"We value our staff and strive to be a fair and welcoming employer, and we recognise that this industrial action is largely a response to the cost-of-living crisis impacting workers across the country.

"This strike comes during a major investment and improvement programme aiming to deliver a high-quality housing repairs service. We want to reassure all our tenants and leaseholders that we are doing all we can to minimise any knock-on effects on our residents during the strike days."

The managers of Tottenham Cemetery have issued restrictive instructions for what can be placed on graves in a part of the site where children are buried

BY OLIVIA OPARA, TOTTENHAM COMMUNITY REPORTER

Bereaved parents say they have been left "heartbroken and outraged" by a sudden notice ordering them to remove items used to decorate their babies' graves.

The notice was placed in the Castle Gardens section of Tottenham Cemetery in September, stating that a "project to level, re-dress and seed" the area would take place during October.

It told relatives of deceased people buried at the site that "under no circumstances are fences, glass vases, balloons, wind chimes, windmills, solar lights, toys, teddy bears, or artificial flowers allowed, except for those flowers placed by the headstone". It added that "any such items will be removed and held in safe custody for a period of three months for collection" and that "a maximum of one small figurine or ornament may be placed on a grave no longer [than] 200cm high".

Items placed by graves which do not comply with the order from the cemetery's managers are set to be removed.

Grieving parents Joe, Whitney and Charlie tried to reach out to the managers of the cemetery to find out why the notice has only been placed in the area where their babies are buried but to no avail, they told *HCP*.

Joe said: "We are all outraged because this is the place that we go to visit and cherish our loved ones as that's all we have got of them now and we just want answers.

"Why are they not focusing their time and energy on the rest of the cemetery that is severely neglected as opposed to the Castle Garden section that is really well maintained because we who visit it look after it?"



Tottenham Cemetery is run by Dignity Funerals, part of The Crematorium and Memorial Group (CMG), which is based at Enfield Crematorium. The organisation has stated that the maintenance work it is carrying out is "essential" to ensure the cemetery "remains clear of obstructions".

Joe and Whitney lost their baby son Tate two years ago and have now launched a petition and an online social media campaign, 'Save The Graves', to preserve his "forever bed" and bring attention to the situation.

Joe added: "It has affected Whitney and Charlie and as two mothers that I know who have lost their babies, it is the only place that I know that they were religiously going every single day to visit their babies and have a little chat.

"These babies have got older siblings and that is a place for them to go and see them and it is not a nice



Grieving parents 'outraged' after being told to remove items from children's grave

“

This has scared and upset people

”

environment for the children to go, for us to go, and we want to put all these little things on their graves.”

Joe told *HCP* that this situation has also impacted their children and that there is nothing “over the top or unreasonable” that has been placed on their babies’ graves and that they should be allowed to decorate them without being questioned because that is what “they have paid for”.

“We have said as a community that we are happy for the crematorium to lay grass seeds and that we will take the stuff off of the graves but once the works are carried out we would like to put our babies’ forever beds back to how they should be.

“This has scared and upset people and for us as bereaved parents – this is heartbreaking. Everything that we have been told to remove [can be found] elsewhere in the cemetery.”

A spokesperson for the Friends of Tottenham Cemetery, a group of local residents who want to preserve the beauty, historic significance and biodiversity of the site, said: “The Friends of Tottenham Cemetery is concerned that these notices do not take into consideration the sensitive nature of asking bereaved families to ‘remove’ cherished belongings from their loved ones’ graves.

“Grieving is very personal and requires

both compromise and compassion. We are meeting with Haringey Council at the end of the month regarding CMG’s management of the cemetery and will raise this matter on behalf of these families.”

A spokesperson for Dignity Funerals said: “Thank you for reaching out to us regarding concerns raised by bereaved parents at Tottenham Cemetery. The memorial area referred to is a shared space. We try to meet the needs of all families in this area and understand that they may have different ways of remembering their loved ones.

“We would like to clarify that the notice placed at Tottenham Cemetery is not limited to infant graves; similar notices have also been placed in the shared space at Enfield Cemetery.

“In order to properly maintain these areas, including mowing and seeding the grass, it is essential that we ensure they remain clear of obstructions. This is done with the intention of preserving the peaceful and well-kept appearance of our grounds.

“Our approach to memorialisation in this area and any restrictions were explained to families prior to purchasing the plot. We remain committed to working with all families to find solutions that respect their needs while enabling us to maintain the shared areas of the cemetery for the benefit of all.”

▲ Tottenham Cemetery

▼ A notice placed nearby graves

Food for thought

Miriam Balanescu meets some of the creatives taking part in a major celebration of local art and culture

While many schools and community groups gather to celebrate the traditional harvest season, coming together to show off their urban-grown produce or donating bundles of food to local shelters and foodbanks, creatives in Haringey have been involved in a more unusual initiative to celebrate the arrival of autumn.

‘Haringey Feast’ is a showcase of creativity in the borough, bringing 250 artists and performers together around

both a physical – and a metaphorical – banquet table, along with a glut of great local art. Meanwhile, 25 Haringey creatives have been commissioned by Haringey Council following an open call, to create work in collaboration with the local community which will become part of the banquet installation.

A smorgasbord of projects are set to go on show, from brand-new raps from Tottenham artist Wizzy Wow, to flower bouquets fashioned from recycled plastic bottles. Paulette Kindah Robinson, founder

of Paulsimna Creatives (which she runs while also working as a fine art teacher with Haringey Learning Partnership), is one of the artists taking part.

“There was a lack in the market for Afro-Caribbean representation in terms of imagery, particularly greeting cards,” she says of how she came to start her business 17 years ago. “When my daughters were growing up, I wanted them to see imagery that represented them and their culture.”

Paulette has been creating drinks coasters with upcycled African fabrics and recycled

bottle tops to feature on the banquet table.

“I love African cloth,” she enthuses. “I have so [much] of it in my home. I upcycle clothing, where I actually sew parts of African cloth onto items of clothing, so I’m always using African cloth in a way to uplift something. I was actually at home a few months ago, and I was just experimenting with some, covering the cloth with bottle tops. And then when I saw this project regarding Haringey Feast, I thought about creating table coasters for the table – and that’s how it came about.



Workshops with Paulsimna Creatives

“I’ve been going around to local pubs in Wood Green and Tottenham collecting all the bottle tops. They’ve been saving them up for me.”

Paulette has run a series of six workshops so far with the local community, to create the coasters. “I really was touched by delivering a workshop at Marcus Garvey Library on Sunday,” she says. “What I found was the different social needs that are in the borough, because sadly in the library there were individuals just hanging out there. [...] I don’t know whether they were coming in from the cold.

“I actually asked some of them if they just wanted to come and join in the workshop, and I was able to talk to them, so what I found from delivering some of the workshops is that there are quite a lot of needs in the borough. And it’s a great way also to bring different cultures together to learn about another culture through talking about African history and the fabric used for the coasters. So on so many levels it has been really profitable.”

Paulette says being able to share this traditional art with others has been one of the highlights: “The importance of doing this is for me to show the beauty of African fabric. Not only was I making and demonstrating, I was also talking about the history of African fabrics, whether it’s north, south, east or west Africa, there is this beautiful cloth that the Africans

adorn themselves with. And it was great to actually pass on that knowledge and share with the participants from all different cultures.”

Harringay-based artist Teelo Vasiliou discovered the fashion world while studying building surveying and project management at university. He went on to found Frame Perfect, The Collective, an agency creating fashion visual content working with the likes of Zara, Uniqlo and Adidas.

“The fashion and media industry was something I unexpectedly fell in love with,” Teelo says. “Since then, I’ve been on a journey of self-teaching and taking risks to learn an industry I initially had little knowledge of.”

For Haringey Feast, his team is putting together a portrait photography exhibition together with Agenda Brown, director of Visual Marvelry, and an art graffiti exhibition, through a workshop facilitated by Germaine Jay, director of GeeJay Arts.

“Events like this are important as they are the foundation of bringing the community together, giving purpose for us to connect and meet,” Teelo adds. “These projects give the community something to celebrate, something to do, something to look forward to and also a platform for local creatives, artists, entrepreneurs, community leaders as well as residents a safe space to express and enjoy, laugh and be together.”

Luciano Rocha is the local artist behind House of Frisson, which was created in lockdown 2020. “I was feeling drained by seeing the sad news everyday on TV and online,” he says. “That’s when I started to look for something to distract me and found a decoupage book on my shelf and decided to redecorate a coffee table in my living room using collage techniques. The work came out well and so I decided to apply the same technique on other objects I had available around the house, including some discarded dinner plates.”

The creative has taken this approach in his contribution to the banquet table: “I’m upcycling plates, trays, bowls, and vessels, which will hold bread and pastries on the tables during the Haringey Feast event,” he says. “I recently ran a workshop of collage onto ceramics where the local community helped me choosing and applying collage designs to these objects which will then be protected with food-safe sealer. The objects have been painted with vibrant colours and LGBTQ+ reaffirmation quotes and slogans have been applied to them, as well as colourful flowers to embellish the overall colourful designs. The inspirations come from reaffirmation of being who you truly are without fear of being suppressed by prejudice. As a society we need to move forward in human rights and stop those who

neglect our existence.”

Haringey Feast is set to put the range of artistic disciplines in the borough centre-stage this month, which is what makes the area so great for culture, Luciano says: “Diversity is what makes Haringey a creative place. Where there is cultural diversity it’s more likely to boom with creativity. Haringey has so much to offer, and it is continually growing. I have met many Haringey based creatives in the last year by taking part in community events.”

Like many of the other artists involved, Luciano reiterates the importance of cultural community events like this. “It gives opportunities for local creatives to get involved in community events and consequently get exposed to a wider audience,” he explains. “And it brings the community together to enjoy and be part of something that celebrates the area where they live. It brings a sense of belonging.”

As well as smaller organisations, long-established creative hubs like Bernie Grant Arts Centre (BGAC) are taking part. “At BGAC we believe in the power of the arts as transformative space, with artists at the heart, playing a pivotal role in strengthening, uniting, and enriching communities,” comments Darnell Shakespeare, senior producer. “Our immersive performance at the Haringey Feast, featuring award-winning street dance troupe Steppaz, the soulful Reggae Choir and acclaimed local poet Tim Forde, will be exciting,

fresh and a brilliant celebration of the incredible creative talent that Tottenham has to offer.”

While the Haringey Feast initiative aims to foster creativity in the borough, some artists express reservations about the future of the cultural scene in the borough. The council’s newly launched culture strategy has placed emphasis on events such as this, along with music, activities and festivals. Paulette, however, notes the importance of financial support and spaces for working-class creatives.

“I can see how creativity is just exploding in Haringey right now,” she says. “What is slightly unfair is sometimes I feel that it’s not always available to certain groups of people. And what I can see happening in Haringey is there is a movement of people coming into the borough that have the wealth to create projects or set up businesses, when there’re creatives like myself in the borough who do not have the financial resources to do that. [...] There needs to be more opportunities for Haringey residents, creatives like myself, not just to have commissions, but to be given spaces.”

To find out more:
Visit haringeyfeast.com
To contact Paulette:
Email paulsimna@gmail.com

“Diversity is what makes Haringey a creative place”



Luciano at House of Frisson

ARTS

Frame Perfect, The Collective artworks for Haringey Feast



Workshops with Paulsimna Creatives



Paulette at Paulsimna Creatives



Paulsimna Creative coasters



Peter Molife, who taught geography and history at Northumberland Park School (now Duke's Aldridge Academy) in Tottenham for 13 years, wrote his debut historical novel *Eriza* in 2019 at 69 years old. The book, inspired by the migration of Zimbabwean women pursuing nursing in the 1960s, follows the story of Eriza, a young girl living in a small village in rural Zimbabwe who travels to England to study nursing.

Last month, Peter's book was chosen to feature at the Black British Book Fair (BBBF). In his book, Peter explores a time of dramatic political and social shifts in Zimbabwe, the importance of education as a means of societal transformation, and the impact of migration on political change and family life. He also explores the intersections of different Black cultures.

Peter's daughter – and editor – Rhoda Molife told *HCP* that the subject matter of the book is “very close” to his heart. Peter was born and raised in a rural Zimbabwean village and saw two of his sisters migrate to England to study nursing. Peter also has experience of being a “repeat immigrant”, having lived and taught in Guyana, Jamaica and the Bahamas for around 20 years.

“I was inspired to write this book because women became more involved in the political liberation of Zimbabwe through their professional achievements and wanting to go back to Zimbabwe to help their fellow people, [and] they had to be political agitators,” says Peter.

Rhoda adds: “[He was also] inspired

Novel ideas

As his novel goes on show at the Black British Book Fair, Olivia Opara sits down with author Peter Molife



by the breadth and depth of our culture. It is really a combination of being really well-travelled, understanding how

rich our culture is, how many stories are within our stories around the world, the importance of recording our history,

and being inspired by his own family.”

When he came to England in the ‘70s, Peter experienced racism and saw that there was a lot of integration and intersection between different Black cultures: those coming from the continent and Black people coming from the Caribbean, despite a narrative at the time which suggested otherwise.

“What my father does through *Eriza*’s [story] as a training nurse is show the closeness between Black people, especially between nurses who not only faced racism from the system but also from the patients,” says Rhoda. “They had no choice but to band together and there was real camaraderie between Black people as well as the Irish because back then there was the ‘No Blacks, no Irish, no dogs’ mentality.”

Peter had to delay becoming an author as he says he wanted instead to prioritise the stability of his family abroad but decided to “follow his dreams” after retiring from teaching in 2014.

“He hopes to really add another chapter to the rich tapestry of what makes Black British culture and that people will really learn about the culture and family life of people from Zimbabwe,” says Rhoda. “We all have stories to tell and no matter what age you are and if you have that urge to pursue that dream there is nothing that is stopping you. He wants to encourage people to really tell their stories because they are really important for the next generations.”

Peter is currently working on a sequel to his book which will look at Eriza’s return to Zimbabwe after it gained independence in 1980.

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Advertisement

Word on the street

To reflect on five years of Tottenham Literature Festival, Miriam Balanescu speaks to festival founder and Bernie Grant Arts Centre artistic director Azieb Pool

The Tottenham Literature Festival (TLF), returning in November for its fifth edition, is all about centring the “Black British experience through lots of lenses that have literature attached to them”, says the festival’s founder Azieb Pool. Its programming team started this year with a quote from *Between the World and Me* by African American author Ta-Nehisi Coates: “I believed, and still do, that our bodies are our selves, that my soul is the voltage conducted through neurons and nerves, and that my spirit is my flesh.” From there, the festival aims to explore the Black British experience with a holistic approach, making ‘mind, body, spirit’ this year’s theme. On the line-up, writers like Gary Younge – former editor-at-large at *The Guardian* – and Dr Ronx – CBBC presenter turned author – will headline, with talks on wide-ranging themes related to the mind, body and soul.

The festival emerged in 2019 when Azieb Pool joined the Bernie Grant Arts Centre (BGAC) as artistic director. “One of the things I wanted to create was a home for Black literature essentially and a space in which our voices aren’t kind of marginalised off to the side,” she explains. “I go to a lot of literature festivals and spaces and, when they do programme Black artists, often we’re stuck in some faraway tent, or they might [have] somebody headlining but we’re not part of the main festival offer. And so I wanted to create a festival where it’s open for everyone, but where the voices and the storytelling comes from a Black perspective. And for me, [in] Tottenham there’s such a rich history around Black-led storytelling and narratives and I want to create a forum for that to just exist and to thrive.”

Countering the stereotypical literary festival scene, Azieb wanted to make TLF about “literature in its most accessible forms” – and that, for the festival team, encompasses music, visual installation, art, and photography.

“We have so many languages in Tottenham, we have so many artists in Tottenham, and we have this music making tradition, a tradition of poetry spoken word,” Azieb says. “And so it was about finding a gathering place for all of that creativity.”

“Although it’s called a literature festival, it’s not just about books. It is about poets and artists and writers and music and just a joyful expression of the word through the Black lens.”

All of these art forms, Azieb argues, stem back to language and literature. “For us, literature is at the heart of everything, pretty much all forms of artistic expression starts in some form, or is inspired in some form, by a word. Even if it’s a visual medium, like photography, often you will find a kind of a moment where a photographer is stopping and pausing and thinking and turning their visual expression into something that feels like visual poetry. So, I’m encouraging us to think about literature in a really broad, accessible way.

“I wanted us to be about the power of words and the power of expression,” she continues. “I also increasingly find the most exciting artists are working across different mediums, and so artists are often working in poetry, across visual art, collaborating with musicians.

“We’re running an arts festival all year round essentially in our programming. But I wanted to have a moment where the word was the centrepiece and everything else is jumping off from that.”

Primarily, though, TLF is about opening up room to discuss the Black British experience. “It was us knowing that there was space and that the space was necessary for Black artists to be leading the conversation,” says Azieb.

So far, the festival has attracted examples of the country’s best-known

writers, from Lemn Sissay to Candice Carty Williams. “Some of our best Black British writing talent just came because that space is so vital,” Azieb enthuses. Meanwhile, Tottenham writers such as Derek Owusu and Zena Edwards have been an important part of the festival.

Some of these writers have even dropped into local schools as part of the schools programme, working with young people to craft poetry on the festival theme ahead of a 300 student-strong performance in the BGAC theatre.

The theme ‘mind, body, spirit’ came out of multiple publications by Black writers this year. “We felt there’s quite a strong theme at the moment in books that are by Black authors, thinking through the decolonization of our bodies, of our mind, bodies and spirit,” says Azieb. “Once you are looking at things through the prism of race, it suddenly opens a world. Suddenly, we’re able to talk about love, we’re able to talk about your imagination. We are, of course, thinking about decolonization and anti-racism in literature, but because we have a Black perspective, all these other experiences suddenly open [up] to us.

“It’s all about this kind of holistic view of the Black experience. And that’s what hangs our authors together.”

Tottenham Literature Festival will run at the Bernie Grant Arts Centre from 13th–19th November

Headliner at TLF 2023 Gary Younge
Credit: Jonas Mortensen



LISTINGS

Film

A Broken House

Sunday, 26th November, 7.30pm
The Salisbury Hotel, Green Lanes N4 1JX

As part of the London Migration Film Festival, two locals will be putting together a programme of short films on migration, creation and community. While the screening itself is free, any donations will go towards Haringey Migrant Support Centre.

Free
Visit bit.ly/3tRC4X5

Art

JJ Guest: ‘The Other Team’

Friday, 17th November – Saturday, 23rd December
OOF Gallery, Warmington House, 744 High Road N17 0AP

Combining “sport, homoeroticism, and violence”, this outlandish exhibition from OOF regular JJ Guest uses football imagery to tackle homophobia. The exhibition features large-scale sculptures and installations, including everything from footballer statues to symbolic bathtubs.

Free
Visit oofgallery.com/current-exhibition

Cycle

Community Cycle Ride

Sunday, 12th November, 11am–1pm
Finsbury Park, Endymion Rd N4 1EE

The Haringey Cycling Campaign is holding a friendly cycling event around Stroud Green, welcoming young cyclists and those new to the sport. Attendees will convene at the Finsbury Park cafe before setting off.

Free

Exhibition

Tethered

Unit 2, Omega Works, Haringay Warehouse District N4 1LZ

An exhibition showcasing creativity in Haringey and Hackney’s warehouse districts, curated by resident artists Tasalla Tabasom and Romane Courdacher. From paintings and photographs to mixed media and sculpture, the exhibition invites visitors to “experience the atmosphere, challenges, and inspirations of creating art within the warehouses”.

Visit artrabbit.com/events/tethered

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Comedy

Hillbilly Comedy

Thursday, 16th November, 8pm
Muswell Hillbilly Taproom, 14 Ave Mews, Muswell Hill N10 3NP

Promising a “small room” but “big laughs”, this cosy comedy night in Muswell Hill is not to miss. The organisers recommend booking in advance to save your seat.

Free
Visit muswellhillbillybrewers.co.uk/events

Concert

North London Chorus

Saturday, 25th November, 7.30pm
St James Church, Muswell Hill N10 3DB

Following on from performing ‘Night at the Opera’ this summer, this North London choir will return to Muswell Hill to perform a programme of Bach and Handel – accompanied by authentic period instruments from the Meridian Sinfonia.

Tickets from £13
Visit northlondonchorus.org/tickets

Gig

Edu Schmidt

Friday, 10th November, 8pm
The Post Bar, 316 High Rd, Tottenham N15 4BP

Argentinian singer, songwriter and violinist Edu Schmidt will be heading to Tottenham to perform from his album *Coso*, which blends chacarero with reggaeton. The artist has created five albums to date and formerly led the group Arbol.

Tickets £12

Visit ents24.com/london-events/the-post-bar/edu-schmidt/6877748

Licensing Act 2003 Notice Of Application for a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Hektor Cafe Lounge** has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Haringey for a Premises Licence to permit:

- New Premises Licence for the sale of alcohol and provision of recorded music from Monday to Sunday between 08:00 and 00:00 hours, and provision of late night refreshments from Monday to Sunday between 23:00 and 00:00 hours at the premises Hektor Cafe Lounge situated at 148 High Road, London, N22 6EB.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at by contacting Licensing Team at licensing@haringey.gov.uk

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice in writing to licensing@haringey.gov.uk, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: **21st of November 2023.**

Copies of all valid representations must include your name and address and will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authorities Sub Committee; these will therefore pass into the public domain.

Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.

Dated: 24th of October 2023



Haringey to host Euro 2028 football matches

UK and Ireland win joint bid to host major tournament with Tottenham Hotspur Stadium – one of the ten chosen venues

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Tottenham Hotspur Stadium will host a number of Euro 2028 international matches as the UK and Ireland was confirmed last month as the joint host countries for the tournament.

The decision was announced following a meeting of the Uefa executive committee at its headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, with the UK and Ireland chosen as a “unique and pioneering” partnership between five separate football associations. Spurs legend Gareth Bale was among those making a presentation to Uefa as part of the bid.

Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, which opened in 2019 and is the second-largest capacity football stadium in London, was named among the ten host venues in the UK and Ireland joint bid earlier this year.

To mark the historic occasion, Spurs club chairman Daniel Levy, alongside club ambassador Ledley King, welcomed London mayor Sadiq Khan, London Assembly member for Enfield and Haringey Joanne McCartney, Haringey Council leader Peray Ahmet and chief executive Andy Donald to Tottenham Hotspur Stadium to celebrate its inclusion.

Levy said: “It was always our vision that the stadium would create a new sport, leisure and entertainment destination in London – to be named as one of the host venues for Uefa Euro 2028 is testament to what we have created here. Our stadium has become renowned for its

unique atmosphere and we are excited for fans from across Europe to come and experience this in five years’ time.

“The impact of a major international football tournament coming to London N17 will be huge for the area of Tottenham and leave a significant legacy. We are already starting to see the socio-economic benefits being delivered locally as a result of the increased number of events and the local spending it creates.

“Furthermore, having some of the continent’s best players perform on the biggest stage right on their doorstep is sure to inspire the next generation of young male and female footballers from the local area.”

Khan said: “London is the undisputed sporting capital of the world – and I am absolutely delighted that we have been chosen to host a record number of games at Uefa Euro 2028 as part of a joint United Kingdom and Ireland bid.

“The capital has hosted numerous major sporting events that are etched in the memory of Londoners and visitors, including the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and men and women’s Euros.

“Wembley and Tottenham Hotspur Stadium are two of the most iconic sporting venues in the world and I have no doubt that London will give a great welcome to fans from across the world who come to enjoy Uefa Euro 2028.”

CLlr Ahmet added: “It is amazing news that Tottenham

has been named as one of the host venues for Euro 2028 and this is a memorable day for everyone connected with Haringey. We are so proud to be part of one of the biggest global events on the sporting calendar and it truly puts our borough on the map.

“We want to say a big congratulations to Tottenham for being the only stadium apart from Wembley to stage games in London. We will be welcoming people from across Europe and the rest of the world into Haringey to see everything that we have to offer and will work to maximise the benefits this will bring to local communities and businesses.

“This will mean so much for the people of Tottenham and we should be proud of the fact that the whole world will be watching us.”

Joining the club and local representatives were young people from the local community who are said to “symbolise the life-changing opportunities created by the club and its stadium” since 2019. They included Jeylan Cemal, who attended a jobs fair at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in March 2022 while looking for work after leaving college and is now a stadium steward, as well as Harry Safford, a Spurs fan who was introduced to the catering team at the club by the Down’s Syndrome Association and has now been working at the stadium for the past year as a chef’s apprentice.

▲
Haringey Council leader Peray Ahmet, Spurs chairman Daniel Levy, and London mayor Sadiq Khan at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium to celebrate the award of Euro 2028
Credit: Tottenham Hotspur FC



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LETTERS

Anniversary celebrations

Happy birthday HCP!

I'm a new reader, but a long-time lover of local journalism. I used to live in Manchester where I supported *The Mill*, which has recently achieved national acclaim for its high-quality, long-form reporting on locally important issues – from the architecture of housing estates, to debates over planning permission, to rereading national 'levelling up' narratives with a local edge.

Unfortunately, when I moved to London last year I moved to Islington, which is lovely but doesn't quite match the commitment to local journalism. So I was delighted to discover *Haringey Community Press* when I moved to Tottenham two months ago, and even happier to become a supporter. In these times of clickbait and algorithms (aka 'the enshittification of the internet') it's so important to back up our local journalists and make sure our stories are heard. To many more years of HCP!

Stella Dixon
Tottenham

Feeling the heat

Dear HCP

Haringey's biggest contribution to climate breakdown is burning gas in our homes. Our campaign initiated by Friends of the Earth but supported by many local organisations aims to get a government programme of home insulation to tackle that.

Some parties are committed to a massive programme of home insulation, but we need to keep up pressure for delivery. Any new government will face enormous pressure to remedy many problems.

So we (Friends of the Earth in Haringey) have been running a local petition to our two MPs, Catherine West and David Lammy. We now have over 1,400 signatures on paper and online. The petition is at www.bit.ly/warmharingey.

We are now launching a very short video in which a local GP Dr Edwina Lawson speaks about the importance of warm homes for her patients.

We encourage people to watch this, and share it within the borough.

Quentin Given
Tottenham & Wood Green
Friends of the Earth

Calling for peace

Dear HCP

We are devastated by the unprecedented atrocities in both Palestine and Israel and horrified at brutal violence in Gaza openly perpetrated by Israeli armed forces and condoned by western governments and politicians, including those in the UK. These can only aggravate the historic and ongoing injustice of occupation and apartheid endured for so many decades by ordinary Palestinians.

We unequivocally condemn war crimes committed in this conflict including the targeting and killing of civilians by both sides. Equally, we unequivocally condemn decades of illegal occupation, apartheid, military offensives, and siege and blockade against Palestinians. This violence has long been enabled by the silence of the international community. The cost to civilian human lives is incalculable.

We support Palestinians in the name of shared values of human dignity, solidarity, and justice, in their cause for liberation and against occupation and apartheid. We also support Israelis seeking justice and peace for all. We fear that a wider conflagration in the region, as well as a rise in domestic community tensions and racist violence across the UK and Europe, will quickly follow unless action is taken to stop the bloodshed.

We call for the UK government to act now to prevent further loss of life and bring about a just end to violence. We call for the UK government to end its arms trade with Israel and its egregious complicity in these war crimes. Instead of pledging military support for Israel and engaging in arms trade, the UK should be urgently calling for an immediate cessation of Israeli aggression and all hostilities. To assist, it should initiate efforts to mediate mutual release of hostages held by Hamas and political prisoners held by Israel. All parties, including local and national politicians must speak out and do what is necessary to demand immediate action to stop the bloodshed. All perpetrators of war crimes and violations of human rights must be held to account.

Haringey Welcome
and five other
local organisations

Send us your letters

Email HCP@socialspider.com before Monday 20th November

'100 homeless families come to the council on a weekly basis'

Sarah Williams, cabinet member for housing services, who represents West Green for Labour

The seriousness of London's housing and homelessness crisis cannot be overstated. Across London, approximately one in 50 people are without a permanent home and living in temporary accommodation. That figure includes 83,500 children – meaning on average at least one child in every London classroom is homeless.

This London-wide crisis is being felt acutely in Haringey, where 100 homeless families come to the council on a weekly basis. Most of these people are private renters who were subject to a no-fault eviction or have been priced out of their rental homes by skyrocketing rents.

To those who present to us as homeless the council offers what's known as temporary accommodation – this could be anything from private accommodation or social housing to a hotel or bed and breakfast.

Temporary accommodation is intended as a short-term solution to homelessness, keeping people housed for up to six weeks while a more long-term solution is found. Last year, the number of London families who exceeded that six-week limit rose by 78.2%, and some Haringey families who need larger homes can expect to stay in temporary accommodation for over a decade.

Now, not only is longer-term accommodation in short supply, but the number of landlords quitting London's temporary accommodation sector has risen by 140% – meaning that homeless families are being evicted from emergency accommodation to be replaced by private tenants.

The government's long-term

freeze on social rents means that Haringey hasn't had the funds to invest in our existing housing, nor have we been allowed to borrow money to improve and grow our housing and temporary accommodation stock.

Haringey is proud to have one of the most effective homelessness prevention teams in London – elsewhere in the capital the situation is even more dire. We proactively try to keep people in their rented homes by negotiating with landlords, offering deposit funds, and assisting landlords in meeting safety standards for their buildings. But our interventions are not enough to fix our broken housing system.

Haringey is building 3,000 more genuinely affordable homes by 2031, but there will always be a need for a fair and fit-for-purpose rented sector.

The government needs to take three bold policy changes: professionalise the landlord industry, make private renting affordable, and end 'right to buy'.

Being a landlord is a serious responsibility, not a way to make a passive second income.

We need the government to introduce laws that professionalise the landlord industry, and in doing so support the work of our good landlords and give councils the powers to crack down on poor landlords.

Since 2010, average rents have risen three times as fast as average incomes, and the rise in the cost of fuel and energy bills is hitting renters in energy-inefficient homes the hardest. The mayor of London has rightly called for ministers to allow him to freeze private rents in London, which will help prevent evictions and provide security for renters.

Introduced by Margaret Thatcher, the 'right to buy' scheme has fuelled a long-term social housing crisis. Since it was introduced, more than 300,000 London council homes have been sold, many of which have not been replaced. The number of new affordable homes constructed annually cannot keep pace with the volume already sold.

Haringey is building 3,000 more genuinely affordable homes, but there will always be a need for a fair and fit-for-purpose rented sector

In Haringey, a massive 5,000 out of 20,000 council properties have been sold to leaseholders under this scheme – and councils don't even get all the money from this sale.

A large proportion of right to buy homes are now in the hands of private landlords: in 2017, 40% of them were being rented out and their tenants were paying more than twice the rent charged by local authorities. Scotland and Wales abandoned this policy several years ago, and it's time for England to follow suit.

Housing is a human right and the crisis within London's housing and temporary accommodation sectors demands immediate attention. But temporary accommodation is a symptom of the housing crisis, not a solution to it.

We need a government that will do something that successive governments have failed to do – give local authorities the power to provide the good quality, affordable and stable housing Londoners need.

To contact Cllr Sarah Williams:
Write: River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green, London N22 8HQ
Email: sarah.williams@haringey.gov.uk
Call: 07976 975 565

HELP US GROW HCP

Haringey Community Press is published by Social Spider Community News, a not-for-profit social enterprise. Our mission is to hold authority to account and provide a platform for the community. But because we have no shareholders or wealthy backers we rely on local people and organisations to support our journalism. The number of supporters making monthly contributions has nearly doubled in a year — helping us to break even and look at how we can grow as a publication.



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