

## NEWS

Ex-Labour councillors form new independent group

PAGE 2

## NEWS

School criticised for excluding pro-Palestine students

PAGE 4

## FEATURES

Charities rally to support the local community at Christmas

PAGES 6

## COMMENT

'We want better cycling facilities and safe, healthier streets'

PAGE 14



A fox cub photographed at Walthamstow Wetlands by @HaringayBirder. For your chance to have your pictures featured in our next issue, use the hashtag #haringey and tag us @haringeycp on social media

## Residents describe 'appalling treatment' in debate over council housing repairs

Labour and Lib Dem councillors clash in debate on Haringey housing repairs backlog after residents talk of their experiences

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

**H**aringey Council has faced calls to urgently improve housing repairs after hearing from residents whose lives have been blighted by poor service.

The calls from Liberal Democrat opposition councillors follow a report by the Housing Ombudsman earlier this year that identified a "culture of apathy" at the local authority and "unreasonable delays" to repairs.

The Labour administration announced extra investment of £2.8million to boost the repairs service and pledged to make a series of improvements.

But it was urged to do more during a full council meeting last month, when two residents told councillors how their health had been affected by delays to repairs.

Robert Randell, who lives in Crouch End, said he and his neighbour had been "treated appallingly"

by the council after being told they had to move in July 2020 to fix issues linked to a crack in the wall that was reported in 2018.

He said they were initially told it was so urgent they had to move immediately, but are still living there, and were informed their move would be temporary, then permanent, and then temporary.

Robert said the work was initially due to take six to ten weeks, but now they have been told it will take 24 weeks, adding that there was "no communication between departments" and they had to chase their own repairs. He said moving dates were cancelled twice, and the situation had affected their physical and mental health.

Highgate resident Marianne Larios spoke of the ordeal she and other residents of Hillcrest Estate have faced over fears toxic gases are entering their flats and causing health problems including headaches, fatigue, breathing difficulties and heart palpitations.

Evidence uncovered by residents suggests sewer gas containing volatile organic compounds is causing the problems because the council's failure to carry out routine maintenance has led to blocked and collapsing drains.

The council was alerted to the problems in January, and Marianne explained that since then the repairs team had been notified about the

Continued on Page-2





Waning  
Gibbous  
83%/0.5



Waning  
Gibbous  
82%/0.49

## ABOUT

At *Haringey Community Press* we believe that the borough deserves a newspaper that is written by and for local people, and which celebrates community in all its diversity. We believe that local news brings people together around the issues that matter most to them and ensures everyone can have a voice in local decision-making. Now more than ever we believe that the media should be responsive and accountable to the community it serves.

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# Ex-Labour councillors form new independent group

## Mark Blake, Mary Mason and Lotte Collett resigned over Starmer's stance on the conflict in Israel and Palestine

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

**F**ormer Haringey Labour councillors who quit the party over its stance on Israel and Palestine have founded a new political group.

The Independent Socialist Group has been formed by councillors who claim the party is becoming "ever more authoritarian" and believe they can best represent residents "free of the shackles of the Labour whip".

It currently has three members – Mark Blake, Mary Mason and group leader Lotte Collett – all of whom recently resigned over the Labour leadership's failure to call for a ceasefire in the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

In an announcement last month the group said: "Labour nationally, and in London, is becoming ever more authoritarian towards its members, a move that does not put it in a good place in local government or indeed when it holds the keys to 10 Downing Street."

"Labour should stand for the devolution of power and authority, locally and nationally, not the centralisation of power in an authoritarian leadership group. Labour should trust its members and the people, which is not currently the case."

Each of the group members is said to have their "specific differences" with Labour under Keir Starmer's leadership, including the exclusion of Jeremy Corbyn from the party, the "abandonment" of key progressive pledges, and allegations of gerrymandering in the selection



Lotte Collett

of Labour candidates for the local elections in Haringey last year.

The group said matters were brought to a head by the most recent events in Palestine and Israel, accusing Starmer of failing to condemn Israeli actions "as mounting breaches of international law are occurring".

Although Starmer has called for Israel's defence to be carried out in accordance with international law, he has stopped short of backing a ceasefire and instead called for humanitarian pauses to allow aid into Gaza and civilians to evacuate. But the socialist group described such calls as a "fig leaf".

The gerrymandering allegations, which are denied by Haringey Labour, relate to claims that Labour's local campaign forum covering the borough was sidelined by right-wingers in the council chamber and the London regional office of the Labour Party, with the regional office taking over its



Mary Mason

functions and favouring more right-wing candidates.

The group also alleged Labour had "ignored" all the recommendations made by barrister Martin Forde following an investigation into allegations of bullying, racism and sexism within the party. Earlier this year, a

Labour spokesperson said many of the recommendations had already been implemented and work was ongoing.

The Independent Socialist Group will join the Liberal Democrats as an opposition group on Haringey Council. The recent resignations, together with the expulsion of Joy Wallace last year, have cut the Labour group's majority on the council from 43 seats following the last local election to 35 now.

Haringey Labour said in a statement that the Labour Party "has a robust selection process to ensure that our candidates reflect the high standards local people expect and deserve", adding: "All Haringey



Mark Blake

Labour councillors were selected in a transparent, proper, and fair process that followed Labour Party procedures."

The statement continued: "Since our election victory in May 2022, Haringey's Labour councillors have been focused on delivering our manifesto and supporting our residents through the cost-of-living crisis which has caused such damage to our people and our community [...]"

"With a strong Labour majority on Haringey Council, we will continue to serve our residents as Labour councillors to make Haringey a greener, safer, and fairer place for all. That is, after all, what we were elected to do."

"Politics is about purpose and it is about commitment – our purpose is to deliver real results and our commitment is to our residents in Haringey. We are focused not on gestures but on action and putting our community and its people first."

"The right and proper thing for Haringey's former Labour councillors to do is resign immediately and let local people decide who represents them."

*"Labour nationally is becoming ever more authoritarian"*

► Continued from Page-1

issues "almost daily" yet residents were still "entirely in the dark" about when repairs would be carried out.

She said she had been forced to evacuate her home "more than 350 times" and keep doors and windows open to ventilate the flat, adding that the experience had left her feeling "exhausted, drained and diminished" (read more on this story on page 13).

Speaking after the residents, Liberal Democrat councillors called on the authority to take action. Scott Emery said the state of housing repairs had "fallen far short of what the community deserves", with delays

reaching an "unacceptable level".

The council insourced its housing service from former council-owned company Homes for Haringey in June last year. But opposition leader Luke Cawley-Harrison said residents were not seeing any improvements and called for regular review meetings between councillors and officers to discuss repairs, adding: "We have to improve this service, and urgently."

Dawn Barnes, Lib Dem spokesperson for housing, said the council's acceptance of most of the Housing Ombudsman's conclusions was a "necessary first step", but the culture of the organisation needed to change. She warned the failure to improve the service was affecting

the health of residents.

Council leader Peray Ahmet said the borough's housing service should be first-class, but acknowledged there was "a long way to go" and insisted that the Labour administration was "dedicated to getting there".

She said setting up a housing improvement board – designed to scrutinise performance against an improvement plan – was "the right thing to do", and the administration was tackling the problems "head on".

Labour's George Dunstall said boosting the repairs service was an "absolute

priority", and the council was "well on the way" to taking some of the critical actions outlined within the improvement plan, including recruiting a

team of staff to tackle the backlog of repairs.

Cabinet member for housing services Sarah Williams insisted there had been an improvement in the repairs service, which she said had been "hit hard by

the [Covid-19] pandemic". She told the meeting the council was "working to address the housing crisis from every angle", while the Conservative government was "refusing to invest in this country".

*"We have to improve this service, and urgently"*



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# School criticised for excluding pro-Palestine students

BY OLIVIA OPARA

**P**arents and students hit out at a school in Hornsey after a number of pupils were disciplined for expressing their support for Palestine.

A large number of students of Hornsey School for Girls were either expelled or temporarily excluded over a series of incidents, including pupils painting Palestinian flags on their hands and staging a walkout of an assembly.

In another incident, the words 'Free Palestine' were written at the entrance to a prayer room.

The clashes between students and teachers came after a letter was sent to parents in October telling them that "it is of paramount importance for our school to maintain its commitment to neutrality when it comes to political and international matters".

The letter adds: "It is our responsibility to ensure their [students'] education is not influenced by political biases."

However, one year eleven student told *HCP* the school had allowed students to be vocal about political and international matters in the past and that what is happening to her and other students in relation to Palestine is "confusing".

She also claimed that, contrary to the policy, one student was allowed

to wave an Israel flag, while teachers are said to have been warning students supporting Palestine to "be careful" and that they would get in trouble.

One parent, whose daughter attends Hornsey School for Girls, told *HCP* that at first parents did not think anything about the letter that was circulated – until they started to see what was happening to students.

"A life is a life regardless of race, faith or affiliation and the fact that Hornsey School is cancelling or trying to basically null out the voice of the kids, I feel like it is a bit one sided," she said. "Maybe it is the political times that we are in [...] but it is creating a great amount of fear among the kids."

The parent added that school personnel would walk around with hand sanitizers and wipes to force students to wipe the Palestinian flag off their hands.

"[This is] a bit concerning and I am sorry for my daughter, even though she is not directly involved," she said. "There is basically no space for autonomy, expression, or thought for the kids."

Students were also disciplined for walking out of one of allegedly multiple assemblies in which the headteacher, Kuljit Rahelu, talked about what would and would not be allowed to be expressed on school grounds in relation to the

conflict in Israel and Palestine.

One of the students disciplined said she and her classmates were asked to write statements about what had occurred during the assembly and, following this, they were each taken out of their classes one-by-one and dismissed from the school.

"When a student would leave and not come back that is when we knew that we were all being excluded," the student said. "The school then wrote that we were being excluded for 'not following instructions and disrespect'."

Despite being penalised, the pupil said that students have continued to display their solidarity for Palestine by wearing their badges and that "they [are] not going to stop".

The father of an excluded student also told *HCP* that what was happening to his daughter and other pupils was "completely unfair" and that no-one was reprimanded for showing support for Ukraine or Black Lives Matter previously "so why is it different for Palestine?"

*"Our young people need to be supported to express their thoughts and feelings in a constructive and careful way"*

Hornsey School for Girls is a comprehensive run by Haringey Council. After the school and the council were approached for comment, Zena Brabazon, the council's cabinet member for children, schools and families, said: "Everyone in Haringey and beyond has been horrified by the events taking place in Israel and Gaza and this has affected a number of our residents in the borough including pupils at our schools.

"It is an incredibly difficult and complex situation for our young people to talk about and process.

"Our young people at Hornsey School for Girls and many other schools across the borough need to be supported to express their thoughts and feelings in a constructive and careful way.

"Schools must be a safe place for pupils where tolerance, compassion and respect for all are core values to observe on a daily basis.

"We continue to meet with our schools and provide support to help our pupils at difficult times."



▲ Council cabinet member Zena Brabazon said schools "must be a safe place for pupils"  
Credit Haringey Labour

► Hornsey School for Girls  
Credit Wikicommons



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The council is struggling to find enough temporary homes for the borough's homeless



## 'Unprecedented' use of B&Bs to house Haringey's homeless families

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

**H**aringey has seen an "unprecedented increase" in the use of bed and breakfast (B&B) style accommodation to house homeless families amid a collapsing private rental sector.

There were 103 homeless households living in hotels in the borough in September this year, with the high cost of B&B accommodation putting pressure on the council's already-stretched finances.

B&B accommodation includes any nightly-paid temporary accommodation where there are no cooking facilities or shared cooking or washing facilities – and often means cheap hotel rooms.

A report presented to a meeting of Haringey's cabinet revealed the civic centre is seeing increases in evictions from the private rented sector; together with more approaches from refugee households and people fleeing domestic abuse.

It comes as the number of landlords quitting London's temporary accommodation sector jumped by 140% after interest rate hikes pushed up the cost of mortgages.

The report states: "The total expected expenditure of hotels up to 31st January 2024, which includes the last financial year (2022/23) is £3.38million."

The council has approved the use of £2m of government grant funding to cover the increased costs. But with a projected £20million in-year budget gap and low cash reserves, civic centre chiefs are under growing pressure to prevent the bill from rising further.

Faced with the challenge, cabinet members agreed to set up a "hotelier framework" designed to establish a "compliant flexible procurement process to draw down hotel accommodation when required with fixed rates".

The council will be able to award contracts valued between £500,000 and £2million, allowing it to respond quickly when it needs to secure large block booking arrangements.

In the longer term, the authority has produced a 'B&B elimination plan' aimed at reducing and then ending its use of hotel accommodation by the end of the year.

The plan includes using early intervention to help prevent homelessness and exploring options to bring empty homes at the High Road West regeneration site back into use "to ease immediate pressures".

There are also proposals to increase the use of one-bedroom council properties as temporary accommodation and prioritise moves from hotels and short-stay hostels.

Further measures include identifying vacant or council-owned buildings that could be used for short or medium-term temporary housing.



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# Haringey charities rally to support the local community at Christmas



▲  
Christmas  
at Jacksons  
Lane

From handmade Santa sleighs to toy appeals, locals are pulling out all the stops to help those most in need

BY MIRIAM BALANESCU

**W**ith the cost-of-living crisis still ongoing, many of Haringey's residents will again be feeling the pinch this Christmas. Last month, a report showed that 103 of Haringey's homeless households were living in hotels as of September, while Haringey Council is seeing increases in evictions from the private rented sector, along with more approaches from refugee households and people fleeing domestic abuse.

Sarah Williams, cabinet member for housing services, who represents West Green for Labour, told *HCP* last month that 100 homeless families approach the council on a weekly basis.

In light of this, as we face another cold winter, charity initiatives are crucial to making a difference in local communities. Tonya Mavri, family support worker at homelessness charity CARIS, says: "Our clients are exposed to the cold weather conditions. They are unable to pay for rising energy costs. The temporary accommodation can be uninhabitable and poorly insulated. There is no money to buy warmer clothes such as winter coats."

The charity's Christmas toy appeal requests donations from the public, with the last date for deliveries to St Ann's Church Hall on Monday, 11th December. "Each present is selected with the individual needs of the child in mind," says Tonya. "For some of our families these are the only Christmas presents they may receive."

Another local initiative in aid of young people is Sister System's Christmas party for Haringey girls in care. The charity, which supports care-affected girls, fundraises towards this special event. "The inception of this heartwarming initiative originated from our unwavering commitment to acknowledging and celebrating the remarkable achievements of the girls and young women who have been integral to our programmes," says Sharney Boakye-Yiadom, communications coordinator at Sister System. "Recognising the importance of creating moments of joy during the festive season, we envisioned a gathering that not only honoured their accomplishments but also provided a joyous occasion for all involved."

"The initiative serves as a powerful catalyst, providing young girls with an empowering and positive space for celebration. Beyond the festivities, it becomes a transformative experience, offering them a sense of empowerment and fostering resilience. This secure environment ensures they come together, creating a strong sense of community and ensuring they do not feel isolated during what can be a challenging period."

Meanwhile, the Wood Green Salvation Army is also holding a Christmas present appeal, along with a flurry of free or low-cost meals in the lead up to and on Christmas day. Paula Knight, who is

organising the events, explains: "The Christmas message is joy and peace for all people but for those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis it can be a very stressful time of year. More families than ever are wondering where they will find the money to pay for their next meal let alone gifts for their children on Christmas Day."

"By donating a toy or gift to our Christmas Present Appeal you will be turning a day of disappointment into a day of joy for a child living in Haringey. We provide toys for all the families registered with Wood Green Salvation Army and we work in partnership with Haringey Council to provide gifts for the children under their care. We pass on the gifts to the families two weeks before Christmas Day so that they have peace of mind in the run up to Christmas."

Bringing community members together for a Christmas meal is also an anchoring aspect of Jacksons Lane's celebrations. "For 48 years, Jacksons Lane has opened its doors on Christmas day to older or disabled adults from across Haringey who would otherwise be alone," says executive director and joint CEO Hannah Cox. "The aim of our Christmas Day project is simple – to provide community, connection and celebration on what can be a difficult day for many. This year we will support 100 older adults at an in-person event at Jacksons Lane and a further 200 more with at-home deliveries of Christmas hampers, complete with a three course meal, Christmas drinks and treats, a gift and a doorstep chat."

On the event's importance, Hannah says: "Community has always been at the heart of Jacksons Lane's work and our Christmas Day project has become a local tradition, with over 100 volunteers supporting us every year. The cost-of-living crisis has impacted so many in our older adult communities, particularly those who are already isolated. This project helps us build community and connection, as well as providing hot food and a warm space to spend time on Christmas Day."

This year, a Big Give Christmas fundraiser will be enabling the event to go ahead, where all money donated will be doubled. Staff

need £20,000 to support the event and members of the public have until Tuesday, 5th December to donate ([donate.biggive.org/campaign/a056900002RXs1KAAT](https://donate.biggive.org/campaign/a056900002RXs1KAAT)).

Hornsey Round Table, a local branch of an international social organisation for men, has an eclectic means of supporting the community. Every year, its members will traipse around Haringey in Santa's sleigh, taking donations and spreading festive cheer.



Wayne Morley, their vice chairman, says: "We decided that we needed an annual fundraiser that really connected with our community. Some of our fellow tables over in Essex had great success in operating a sleigh in their prospective constituencies and so it was decided that a Santa sleigh was the perfect way to fundraise. One of members Thomas Harvey happens to be a director at Washroom Washroom Ltd. [...] They kindly donated all the materials, designed and then hand built our beautiful sleigh."

He adds: "Normally you will hear the sleigh coming before you see it! We handpick some of the catchiest Christmas classics to make sure there are no local children missing out on seeing Santa pass by their house. We often get waves and cheers from people heading out for a Christmas party or people commuting home on buses."

"The wonderful donations we receive every year enable us to help some of the most vulnerable people in our community. We chose our charity partner, The Hornsey Foodbank, based on who we felt needed the money most urgently. It's clear that foodbank use is on the increase and that many people are also experiencing anxiety and stress due to the current economic climate so we couldn't think of a more worthy cause."



Christmas dinner at Jacksons Lane

▲  
Sister  
System's  
Haringey  
Christmas  
party



# Broadwater Farm resident ‘living on her nerves’ with mice, cockroaches and broken bathtub

Amelia has been making complaints to Haringey Council since 2019 but the issues remain unresolved

BY MIRIAM BALANESCU

**A** Broadwater Farm resident has been “trapped” in a flat overrun with pests and in need of bathroom repairs for four years, despite making numerous complaints to Haringey Council.

Amelia (who wished to use a different name to protect her identity) says the situation has “deteriorated over the last five years” – with two separate issues pertaining to drainage in her bathroom and a mice and cockroach pest problem still yet to be resolved.

Amelia has been living in the Broadwater Farm flat for over 30 years but says that in 2019 she made her first report of an issue with drainage in the bathroom, leaving the bath and shower unusable.

She said: “I’ve not been able to use the bath for nearly a year. It has a showerhead, but you have to run so much water just to wash your hair that the water sits in the bath and doesn’t drain away.

“I’m having to go to members of my family just to have a decent wash.”

Amelia also said that there is a pest issue with mice, cockroaches and other insects throughout the flat – which also travel inside from the corridors and neighbouring apartments.

She said: “I’ve spoken to tenants and they’ve said they will report it. It’s probably an embarrassment thing.

“I’m living on my nerves in this flat. I go in the kitchen, I don’t know what I’m going to be faced with [...] I sit in my sitting room with my legs up because of mice coming through.”

Since first making the complaints via Community Connect at Broadwater Farm Surgery, Amelia says numerous surveyors

and contractors have visited the apartment but she is still waiting – and she has noticed the problems getting worse.

She added: “It just seems to fall on deaf ears and get lost in the system. I just keep reporting and reporting.

“I’ve sat here all day waiting for a repair and nothing has happened – no apology, no explanation. I just have to keep chasing and chasing.

“When I made a complaint about the cockroaches, they’re coming back saying they can’t do anything until a month’s time. These critters are looking to nest and breed. I just think it’s absolutely appalling.”

Since being contacted by HCP for comment, the council has now brought repairs in the kitchen and bathroom forward, but Amelia says multiple contractors have visited the property and told her “they couldn’t do the job”.

Amelia said: “They have fitted the bathroom in wrong. The surveyor says the bath needs to be taken out.

“It is also causing a vile smell. I try to mask it but it’s just permanently there.

“It’s supposed to be my home and yet I just don’t want to be here,” Amelia said. “I get tired of coming up against a brick wall.

“I’m 60 years old, I want to live comfortably and not on my nerves and having to stay awake. It’s not the way I want to live.”

Sarah Williams, cabinet member for housing services, private renters and planning, said: “I want to apologise for the delays and the inconvenience these issues are causing the tenant, which we are now working hard to get sorted.

“Our pest control team investigated and treated the affected areas in March this year shortly after we were alerted to the problem and a further three-course treatment has been set up, starting later this month.

“After an initial visit last week, a specialist contractor will be returning to fix the bath drainage. A surveyor will also undertake a comprehensive assessment of the property before the end of the month to see if further practical action is needed.”

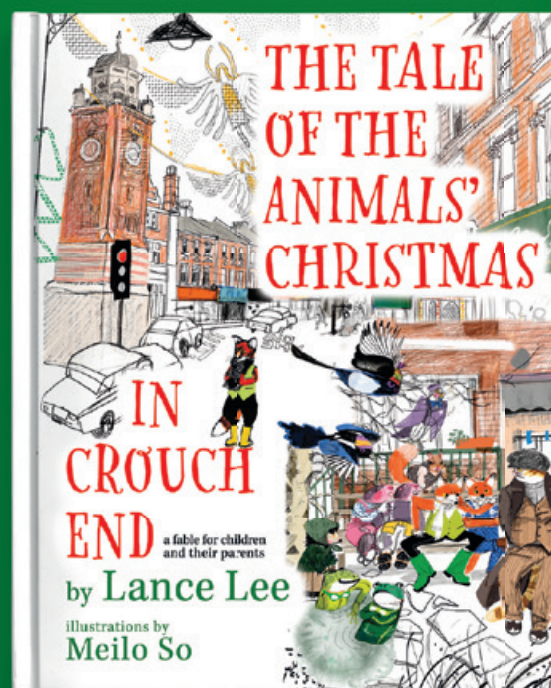


A broken bathroom panel

NEWS

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Mice droppings in Amelia’s sitting room



Amelia says creepy crawlies travel via corridors and neighbouring flats



# Christmas in Haringey

Celebrate the festive season with help from our ultimate guide to Christmas events in the borough

BY OLIVIA OPARA & MIRIAM BALANESCU

**TOTTENHAM**  
**Made By Tottenham**  
**Christmas Pop-Up Shop**  
Wednesday 29th November–  
Saturday, 16th December

Made By Tottenham is bringing its Christmas pop-up shop back for its second year with a selection of work by more than 45 local artists, designers, creatives and makers. Throughout the month, there will be a range of special events on Thursdays as part of the pop-up shop such as a comedy night and a film night.  
**To find out more visit:** [instagram.com/madebytottenham](https://www.instagram.com/madebytottenham)

**HIGHGATE**  
**Handmade in Highgate Winter Fair**  
Friday 1st–Sunday 3rd December

Perfect for arts and crafts lovers, this fair is held at the historic Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, usually closed to the public. Entry is free and gifts from over 30 makers will be featured.  
**To find out more visit:** [hand-made-in-highgate.com/future-fairs-and-application-details](https://www.hand-made-in-highgate.com/future-fairs-and-application-details)

**ALLY PALLY**  
**Peter Pan on Ice**  
Friday 8th December–  
Monday 11th December

Get your skates on for this Christmas pantomime unlike any other. West End actors will quite literally take to the ice at Alexandra Palace's famous rink for this unusual adaptation of the J.M. Barrie classic.  
**To find out more visit:** [alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/peter-pan-on-ice](https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/peter-pan-on-ice)

**HIGHGATE**  
**You're A Good Man Charlie Brown**  
From Monday 4th December

Taking on the ambitious project of adapting Snoopy comic strips for the stage, Upstairs at the Gatehouse Highgate will be home to plenty of canine antics throughout the month – perfect for some jolly entertainment.  
**To find out more visit:** [upstairsatthegatehouse.com](https://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com)

**WOOD GREEN**  
**Lymington Avenue Christmas**  
**Arts and Crafts Market**  
Sunday 10th December–  
Saturday 17th December

As part of its plans to create a new market space in partnership with Haringey Council, Wood Green BID is hosting a Christmas arts and crafts market selling homemade arts, Christmas cards, craft products and more created by locals and young entrepreneurs. There will also be a competition for best-dressed Christmas stall.  
**To find out more visit:** [bit.ly/47sMVWY](https://bit.ly/47sMVWY)

**HORNSEY**  
**Jolly Hobbies Japanese**  
**Christmas Market**  
Sunday 10th December

Running for its 13th year, the Jolly Hobbies Japanese Market will provide a wide selection of locally-produced arts and crafts, handmade items such as baskets, tea towels and pottery created and curated by the local Japanese community. There will also be accessories, knitted and antique items and vintage clothing for sale. Plus traditional Japanese food.  
**To find out more visit:** [jollyhobbies.co.uk/wixsite.com/jollyhobbiesmarket](https://www.jollyhobbies.co.uk/wixsite.com/jollyhobbiesmarket)

**HIGHGATE**  
**Turning Earth Highgate**  
**Winter Market**  
Saturday 2nd December–  
Sunday 3rd December

Celebrating ten years of Turning Earth – a local ceramics hub – over 120 ceramicists will be showcasing their work at this annual festival. The Turbans will be providing music, while mulled wine, coffee and baked goods courtesy of Sourdough Daali will be on hand.  
**To find out more visit:** [turningearth.org/n6/events](https://www.turningearth.org/n6/events)

**TOTTENHAM**  
**Refilwe – A new take on Rapunzel**  
Saturday 2nd December–  
Tuesday 5th December

Inspired by Zukiswa Wanner's southern African retelling of the fairytale *Rapunzel*, watch as hero Refilwe uses dance moves, riddles and magic hair to escape the British Museum. This inventive production will see National Youth Theatre, Bernie Grant Arts Centre and Talawa Theatre Company join forces.  
**To find out more visit:** [berniegrantcentre.co.uk/whats-on/refilwe](https://www.berniegrantcentre.co.uk/whats-on/refilwe)

**MUSWELL HILL**  
**Community choir performs Zelenka**  
**and sing-along Christmas carols**  
Saturday 9th December

At St Andrew's Church in Muswell Hill, the Fortismere Community Choir will take to the stage to perform 'Missa dei filii', accompanied by the local symphony orchestra. This will be followed by Christmas carols, with the audience invited to join in.  
**To find out more visit:** [bit.ly/49RMAld](https://bit.ly/49RMAld)

**TOTTENHAM**  
**Tottenham Winter Festival & Market**  
Saturday, 2nd December

Myddleton Road Market is again hosting its annual Tottenham Winter Festival and there will be arts and crafts stalls, food and drink for sale, family workshops, face painting and funfair rides for children. There will also be a Santa's grotto, a live brass band and music by local DJs. A Christmas lights ceremony will also take place led by Haringey Borough FC.  
**To find out more visit:** [bit.ly/46xw9nV](https://bit.ly/46xw9nV)

**HARRINGAY**  
**Winter Arts Fest at Florentia Village**  
Saturday 2nd December–  
Sunday 3rd December

Featuring live music, DJs, street food, craft beers and more, this arty makers' market shows off N4's creative talent. There will be 120 stalls from which to pick up unique gifts and a clothes swap hosted by F#!% Fast Fashion.  
**To find out more visit:** [eventbrite.co.uk/e/winter-arts-fest-florentia-village-makers-market-music-more-tickets-739381529057](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/winter-arts-fest-florentia-village-makers-market-music-more-tickets-739381529057)

**CROUCH END**  
**Crouch End Christmas Fair**  
Saturday 9th December

At Hornsey Parish Church in Cranley Gardens dozens of local artists and creatives will gather to sell their work, including artisan ceramics, jewellery, paintings, vintage clothes, and more between 11am and 4pm.

**HIGHGATE**  
**A Christmas Carol at Jacksons Lane**  
Wednesday 10th December

Charles Dickens' wintery tale is reimaged as a one-woman interactive puppet show, brought to audiences by Sandal Sticks Theatre.  
**To find out more visit:** [jacksonslane.org.uk/events/a-christmas-carol](https://www.jacksonslane.org.uk/events/a-christmas-carol)

**HARRINGAY**  
**St Paul's Haringay Family**  
**Christmas Carol Extravaganza**  
Saturday 2nd December

Promising not only carols aplenty but a bouncy castle, crafts and a Christmas talk, this musical event is ideal for families.  
**To find out more visit:** [achurchnearyou.com/church/15638/service-and-events/events-all](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15638/service-and-events/events-all)



# Where to find Haringey's best Christmas food

George Dennis highlights the finest festive treats to be found around the borough

Christmas food has the power to take us back. With the first sip of mulled wine or the last morsel of roast turkey come warm winter memories, be it a place, a person, or a reminder of home.



Sourdough stollen  
Credit: Sourdough Sophia

Panettone Credit: Sourdough Sophia



Festive flavours are deeply connected to specific times and to specific moments. While we all dig into different festive spreads over the Yuletide, we all keep our culinary traditions as a way of remembering.

Over the past month I have been talking with a handful of restaurant and café owners across Haringey about those flavours, recipes and ingredients that make Christmas uniquely their own. It's not only been a chance to get an early glimpse of the pastries and spiced lattes in preparation across the borough, but also an opportunity to learn a little more about the personal stories behind the recipes.

For Marco of Geographical Indications, a British produce deli-bar in Crouch End, Christmas will always be about "getting fat and staying together". We spoke at length about the Italian biscuits

and cakes of his childhood on Liparai – a small island off the north coast of Sicily.

Spicchitedda and nacatuli are festive biscuits made through an intricate process of pinching, cutting, and baking. The combination of cloves, almonds, and mandarins with vincotto – a cooked wine – make Christmas and, for Marco, Christmas is home.

The same is true for Frederico Viciani, director of Table 13, a cosy bakery, café, and wine bar in Tottenham Hale. For Frederico it is another Italian classic that captures Christmas: pappardelle ragu, made with either beef or pork sausage. This is quintessential 'grandma' cooking – warm and hearty.

I also had the opportunity to speak with Jesse Sutton-Jones, co-owner of Sourdough Sophia's. Set to a background of cruffins and croissants, Jesse explained to me that preparations for their festive offerings were already underway. As we spoke, their filling was fermenting ready to pack an endless stream of mince pies, already pre-ordered from across the country. The right mince pie filling, for Jesse, is the ultimate taste of Christmas. We can also expect fresh sourdough stollen filled with boozy fruit and spices – a recipe in keeping with Sophia's German heritage – as well as artisanal panettone from

Mince pies Credit: Sourdough Sophia



a pasta madre starter.

The team at Abraço, an independent coffee bar in Green Lanes, also found the time to tell me about their plans for delivering Christmas flavours. They are excited about pairing a turkey, Brie and cranberry sandwich with their home-made mulled wine.

Continuing throughout December they'll be playing with the aromas of Christmas in both their spiced carrot and lentil soup and their Bailey's style lattes.

Haringey's culinary diversity and breadth of talent will certainly make our borough the perfect place to share food with friends this Christmas. Whatever the "normal" festive table spread might be for anyone, perhaps this is the year to try someone else's normal.

“The right mince pie filling, for Jesse, is the ultimate taste of Christmas”

FOOD

## Our residents deserve to live in safe and well managed homes.

Help shape our proposed new additional licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO).



We want to hear your views.  
[www.haringey.gov.uk/hmo-consultation](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/hmo-consultation)



Haringey  
LONDON



►  
Local writers  
featured in the  
anthology at the  
launch event



**L**ast month, community members of Haringey and Hackney came together to celebrate the launch of a very special and unique anthology. *The Local Voices Project* is a collection of stories by 34 local writers about home and what being part of modern day Haringey and Hackney means to them. My name is Damien and earlier this year I and my colleagues at a small publisher called Indie Novella put out an open call for story submissions from real people living in two of the most diverse and welcoming places not only in London, but in the UK, to demonstrate what a wealth of writing talent we have on our doorstep.

We have stories about forming diaspora communities, growing up in a multicultural society, coming together during Covid-19, caring for relatives, rent hikes, gentrification, being Black and British, and finding a place where you feel accepted. It is a true snapshot of Hackney, Haringey and what North London means to us. And last month's event celebrated this. We had readings from twelve different writers across the boroughs, and the event, hosted in a full Newington Green Meeting House, was attended by three local councillors including the deputy mayor of Hackney, Anntoinette Bramble. Haringey-based writer and performer Phoebe McIntosh summed up the writerly talent involved when reading from her own submission to the anthology, *The Surge*.

Extract from *The Surge*

Occasionally, there are movements within you, ones you have nothing to do with. It is your responsibility to monitor them, to count them, recognise if they are happening less

# By the book

Damien Mosley, director at Indie Novella, introduces a new anthology of fresh local literature



frequently, report it, tell someone, knowing that if you fail to do so, the consequences could be grave. You fight the urge to lay down. There is so much to do. The list of life admin, the tasks that fill your days, never dwindles for long but continually re-germinates and grows like a newly planted seed.

You think about your mother more lately, about how she did this alone, walked herself

to the hospital when she went through this very experience, carrying her hospital bag alongside her bump. You wonder how she stayed so calm, what it took for her not to panic that you were on your way, and she was so young, so alone.

You drink that in now, that strength, as your midsection tightens around the additional life it holds. You ask it not to cling too tightly. "Please," you

think. "Let go a little, body of mine, just enough", your own skin holding onto the new skin that you've made from your own cells, but which doesn't belong to you. You call to mind words that bring about ease. Ease is all you want. For this to be easier this time round.

If anyone asks, no, no you're not scared. You throw them a bone: "A little nervous, I guess." That's all you admit to out loud. And on the inside too, within the secret folds of your mind, there is no room to second guess that impulse either now, little room to reconsider or admit to truer feelings because you are occupied, full to the brim with fresh spring air, new bones, soft limbs, shoulders as yet unweighted by the reality of the world just beyond the confines of your body, housing her.

Within you, there is a face that already knows how to smile. Fully formed eyes with fully formed tear ducts ready to be filled and emptied down the softness of the barely-there peaks of skin which you have helped to mould into her appearance. You'll see it soon, no longer grainy and separated from you by glass and medical machines but real, looking back at you, asking of you all the things you would never ask of yourself.

But you will. Because you've done it before. "All I have to do is feed her and love her," you tell yourself. And you can think of nothing truer. You are alone now, when for days you have been surrounded by people and anticipation. That's why it's happening now, the contractions, the shortness of breath, the knowledge that time, this kind of time, the kind you've grown so accustomed to recently, is short. A new time is dawning. And it starts now.

**'Dominoes', a novel based on Haringey writer Phoebe McIntosh's play of the same name, will be published by Penguin in March 2024. 'The Local Voices Project' is available now from [indienovella.co.uk/bookshop](http://indienovella.co.uk/bookshop)**

“  
*It is a true snapshot of  
Hackney, Haringey and what  
North London means to us*  
”



# Muswell Hill photographer gets national recognition

*Zoe Norfolk has been shortlisted for the Portrait of Britain Award*

**A** Muswell Hill resident has placed top in two major national photography competitions this year.

Last month, Zoe Norfolk was shortlisted for the British Journal of Photography's Portrait of Britain Award with an image of her friend's daughter Gracie.

The prolific Muswell Hill photographer also nabbed the silver award in the Association of Photographers (AOP) annual AOP Photography Awards for her series of photos taken on her son's birthday every year since he was born in 2003. The work is titled *Every Year I Take a Photo* and featured in *The Guardian* last month.

Zoe told *HCP*: "This year I've approached my career differently, trying different avenues to showcase my work. *Portrait of Britain* was one of two things I tried and achieved success with, the other being the AOP awards – I received a silver award for my long-term self-portrait project with my son."

The Portrait of Britain Award is the UK's biggest annual photography competition, culminating in an exhibition of 100 winning images shown across

## British Journal of Photography

Established 1854

### Portrait of Britain



Zoe's shortlisted Portrait of Britain entry, taken of a friend's daughter Gracie

Credit Zoe Norfolk

the country through a digital screen display held for one month. Meanwhile, 200 shortlisted entries – including Zoe's – are published in the *Portrait of Britain* book.

The competition, which aims to capture "the many faces of modern

Britain", is now in its sixth year.

Zoe said: "It's the first time I've entered. My work is often shot landscape in format so I decided to shoot a few images 'portrait' that would work well for the submission of the award. The shot of Gracie was the

one that was chosen.

"Gracie is a friend's daughter – they live in Essex and a group of us went down for the day. This is one of the shots I took on the seafront in Frinton."

Meanwhile, the AOP Photography Awards are now in their 38th year, open to AOP accredited and assisting photographer members. The association describes the competition as the 'Oscars' of the photography world.

Gold and silver winners were announced at an AOP annual showcase event in September.

AOP CEO Isabelle Doran commented: "It's like opening a surprise gift box of delights, you're not sure what you're going to get but when you open it up you find a delightful myriad of visual treasures. This year's finalists and winners are a delicious treat for the eyes."

To add to these achievements, Zoe – well-known in her local community as the 'Muswell Hill photographer', the alias she posts under on social media – also published a book in September, titled *Muswell Hill in Photos*.

Zoe added: "It's been a great year for my photography as well as publishing a book of my photos of Muswell Hill which I've sold nearly 300 copies of."

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

11

HCP  
Dec  
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Nº 26

“It's like opening a surprise gift box of delights”

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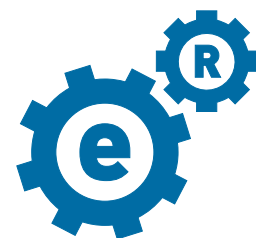
## Hale Time holiday programme at The Engine Room



The Engine Room invites all young people aged 12 to 18 years old to join us for **Hale Time**. This is our new school holiday programme starting in October half term with a Black History Month themed week packed with different activities. The programme will include street dance with **DefineMe**, art and craft with **Niart Fr3edom**, drama with **Legal Aliens** and games with **BKSports** and youth club sessions planned as part of the programme.

To register call **0208 808 5490** or email Hale Time to [info@engineroom.org.uk](mailto:info@engineroom.org.uk)

**HOME**COOKED

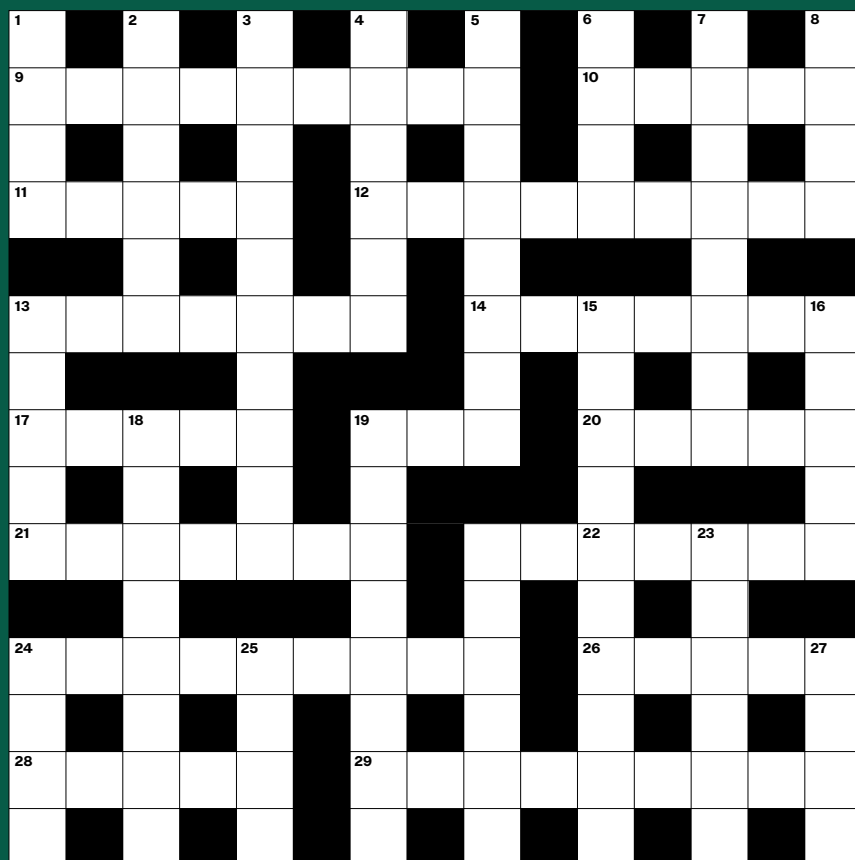


**engineroom**  
where community meets



# Crossword N°3

Enjoy this cryptic crossword courtesy of local setter  
Amoeba – keep your eyes peeled on our website  
[haringeycommunitypress.co.uk](http://haringeycommunitypress.co.uk) for solutions



## ACROSS

- 9 Whatever may happen when a brown rat eats an unknown  
10 nibble, ultimately? (2,3,4)  
11 Suggest I open novel (5)  
12 In Berlin, I order extremely divine liquid (5)  
13 Wager hotel is next to the French border town (9)  
14 Cut short a card game (7)  
17 Westbound low road heading to eminent bishop's chamber (7)  
19 Have to informally bring back a measure of warmth around the third of October (5)  
21 See 16 Down  
22 Respectable family ingesting drug (5)  
24 Morse's assistant with flipping top-notch herb (7)  
26 Glass tube's bottom broken by engineers before opening of exhibition (7)  
28 See 2 Down  
29 Principle from the left and from the right (5)  
Country singer from Ireland on ketamine (5)  
Ace sonnet translated into Asian language (9)

## DOWN

- 1 Wise men initially monitor Artificial General Intelligence (4)  
2/24A Deliveryman who's sacked in the holiday season? (6,9)  
3 Cross about senior reversing ULEZ-compliant vehicles? (6,4)  
4 Graduate smashed blue ornament (6)  
5 Teaching magazine on board, that's verifiable (8)  
6 Dynamite inventor's heartless 24a (4)  
7 Group of ladies were radiant, pinching celeb's bottom in part of Turkey (8)  
8 Stretch and finally admit I'm not sure (4)  
13 A new setter's being spiritual (5)  
15 Duke helping to install green 4? (10)  
16/19A Minute piece crushed for a pastry (5,3)  
18 Massive tiger now set free (8)  
19 Before the end of inquiry, hospital in Italian city caught drug supplier (8)  
Chief holds up Greek character to sailors (6)  
23 15 cans – Stella, essentially (6)  
24 Fancy coat (4)  
25 Lead actor in Red Dwarf, perhaps (4)  
27 Pine for one number on the radio in Ireland (4)



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9th December – Honey B Mama

16th December – Daytime:  
Christmas Fayre with Tottenham Trades  
Partnership at Scotland Green

16th December – Evening: Laville's  
(The Voice) TV screening sing along

19th December – New Tottenham  
Singers carols by candlelight

23rd December – GeeGee

30th December – Jamie

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## Licensing Act 2003

Notice Of Application For A Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Tariq Ishack Rawat**  
Has/have applied to the Licensing Authority of London  
Borough of Haringey for a Premises Licence to permit:

- Sale of alcohol for the premises **Brunch On The Hill** situated at **48 Crouch End Hill, Hornsey, London N8 8AA**

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at  
Licensing Team, River Park House, Level 1 North, 225  
High Road, Wood Green, London, N22 8HQ

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations  
concerning this application must give notice in writing  
to the London Borough of Haringey, Licensing team at  
the above address, giving in detail the grounds of the  
representation no later than: **22nd December 2023**

Copies of all representations will be included in  
the papers presented to the Licensing Authority's  
Sub Committee and will therefore pass into the  
public domain. Representations can be emailed to  
[licensing@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@haringey.gov.uk)

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  
£5000 under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003  
knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in  
connection with an application.

**Dated:** 24th day of November 2023

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# Anger over High Road West compulsory purchases

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

RESIDENTS BATTLING HARINGEY Council's bid to buy and then demolish their homes and businesses to make way for a regeneration scheme have made their case at a public inquiry.

The council wants to use compulsory purchase powers to buy properties earmarked for demolition under the first phase of the High Road West scheme – a development that will ultimately provide nearly 3,000 homes in blocks up to 29 storeys high.

Although the council won planning permission for the scheme last year, it has been unable to persuade some property owners to sell up. It claims the only way to ensure the development's "timely delivery" is to use a compulsory purchase order (CPO) – a legal tool allowing it to buy land without the owner's consent.

But the council received a number of objections to the CPOs, with a petition against the demolition of High Road shops gaining more than 4,500 signatures, and last month opponents made their case to a public inquiry



Campaigners against the CPOs outside Bernie Grant Arts Centre

chaired by planning inspector Richard Clegg at Bernie Grant Arts Centre.

Mary Powell, a resident leaseholder who lives on the 297-home Love Lane Estate, which has been earmarked for demolition, told the inquiry "social cleansing" was taking place. She said the way the estate was seen by outsiders was "prejudiced" and claimed the council had led it "through a period of managed decline since 2012 if not earlier", with some maintenance and upgrades not carried out.

Mary added that the council had "no business" seeking to buy

her home before planning permission was granted in August last year, that correspondence received from the council was "intermittent and poor quality", and that it had "unreasonably accelerated" the process after residents had spent "more than a decade in limbo".

Claiming her CPO notice was "premature", she said there had been "no specific attempt" to talk terms with her "let alone offer any sort of price" until April or May this year – after the notice was issued.

Mary said her resettlement options appeared "superficially

inviting" but the costs and phasing of the development were "more likely to drive resident leaseholders out of the area", adding: "We are the wrong sort of homeowners and do not belong in the new vision of High Road West."

Alecos Tryfonas, whose family owns takeaway Chick King and a flat occupied by his elderly parents, both earmarked for demolition, also gave evidence to the inquiry. He said the properties were "all we worked for and what we own as a family".

Alecos said the experience of the regeneration project was not something he would wish on anyone, adding: "Just to wake up and be told one morning that shops are going to go, my property is going to be demolished – and there has never been any consultation or option to retain the property."

The council has said it is committed to working with businesses "to find suitable relocation options", which could include commercial space within the new development. However, businesses relocating within High Road West would be offered leaseholds, not freeholds.

## HIGHGATE

# Estate's 'toxic gas' health fears

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

RESIDENTS OF A COUNCIL estate have been left living in fear of "toxic gases" entering their homes from blocked and collapsing drains.

Several residents of Hillcrest Estate, off North Hill, reported being affected by health problems including severe headaches, fatigue, and burning sensations in the nose and throat following exposure to "strong fumes" entering their flats.

They believe the symptoms are linked to exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs), some of which are dangerous to human health and can cause cancer.

According to a report produced by the Highgate Society and local Liberal Democrat councillor Scott Emery on behalf of more than a dozen residents, evidence suggests that the "chemical

contamination" is being caused by disintegrating and collapsed pipes resulting from Haringey Council's failure to carry out routine inspections and maintenance.

In response the council has recently carried out an inspection and has said "work will get underway quickly on any necessary repairs".

However, the Highgate Society's report states the council was alerted to the problems in January but had since failed to take any substantive action. Residents also criticised the authority's reference to an "unpleasant smell" as a failure to understand the severity of the problems they face.

Symptoms reported by residents include severe headaches, numb and tingling lips, burning sensations in the nose and throat, disorientation, strange tastes, breathing difficulties and heart palpitations. The health complaints recently prompted

a local GP to write to the council demanding the matter to be looked into "with some urgency".

The Highgate Society report states devices in one flat "regularly detected very high levels of VOCs", which are present in sewer gas and can be odourless. It adds these compounds "are in many cases carcinogenic and can be explosive".

At Mountbatten House, Dowling House, Cunningham House and Alexander House, raw sewage has been bubbling up, pooling and flooding outside of the buildings.

The report says harmed residents have not been given clear information by the council, causing "significant psychological strain". Residents have also been put under financial pressure, facing higher energy costs. One told the Local Democracy Reporting Service her experience was "worse than living in a horror film".

The Highgate Society and Cllr

Emery called on the council to take "clear, holistic and purposeful action" to address the ongoing harms to residents, going beyond "treating this matter as an unconnected series of call-outs or repairs".

Sarah Williams, cabinet member for housing services, said: "We appreciate the concern this is causing residents. Our investigations indicate the source of the unpleasant smell relates to the drainage system. Following a thorough review [...] a site visit has taken place. Work will get underway quickly on any necessary repairs to ensure pipework and gullies are safe and clear. We will also look at options for installing appropriate environmental monitoring equipment. We will then undertake a comprehensive assessment [...] if further action is needed, we will implement a longer-term programme of remedial work and ensure residents are informed."

## Man arrested over 'terrifying' hate crimes

DETECTIVES ARRESTED A MAN on suspicion of committing multiple hate crime offences in South Tottenham against the same Jewish woman.

The 55-year-old man was arrested on 23rd November on suspicion of arson and racially aggravated harassment. He was taken to a North London police station and later bailed pending further investigations by detectives.

The man is suspected of racially abusing a Jewish woman, aged in her 30s, in Townsend Road on 21st November, and of setting fire to the same victim's car earlier on 6th November.

Detective Sergeant Chris Church said: "This was a terrifying experience for the victim who was just going about her day.

"We simply won't tolerate hate crime and those who commit such abhorrent crimes will be prosecuted.

"While the victim in this case was not physically harmed, the effects of being a victim can be damaging and long lasting. We continue to support her and her family."

## WOOD GREEN

## Church flat plans refused

PLANS TO BUILD A BLOCK of flats next to a Grade 2-listed church have been turned down over a lack of affordable housing.

Braemar Avenue Baptist Church applied to Haringey Council to demolish its rear hall and build a four-storey block containing a replacement hall in the basement and 15 flats above.

Profit from the flats is needed to fund church restoration works. But at a planning committee last month, the lack of affordable homes was repeatedly criticised by councillors and residents, who pointed out the plans included a three-bedroom flat reserved for the pastor.

One resident, Cathy Ley, asked: "Who's in greatest need – the pastor or those on the council's housing waiting list?"

Robbie McNaugher, the council's head of development management, claimed the scheme was financially unviable even if the pastor's home was sold privately. But the plans were refused by five votes to four.



# We want better cycling facilities and safe, healthier streets for everyone

Francesca Savage and Harith Canna, members of Haringey Cycling Campaign, argue the need for segregated cycle lines, LTNs and bike storage

**L**ast month, we took our son down to Finsbury Park to join around 80 others on Haringey Cycling Campaign's (HCC) latest community cycle ride around Stroud Green.

It was great to see so many people across a huge range of ages and abilities out on wheels. Bells were ringing and big smiles were across everyone's faces.

HCC has monthly bike rides, organised in collaboration with Haringey Living Streets, in different parts of the borough. These rides encourage more people to give cycling a go and highlight what needs to be done to make safe, enjoyable cycling possible for all.

HCC wants to make it easier for people to get around by bike, whether it's to go to work, the shops or for children to get to school. Put simply, they want better cycling facilities and safe, healthier streets for everyone. To make this possible, segregated cycle lanes on major routes, more low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) and plenty of places for people to store their bikes are needed.

We have been cycling on roads with our son by our side since he was three, however there are areas of the borough which we are very fearful of. A few weeks ago, we needed to go along Green Lanes. We were

surrounded by vehicles and were beeped at several times. We thought: heck this is pretty terrifying!

Haringey Council has made some progress recently but there is more to do. We desperately need safe cycling routes east to west across the borough and from north to south. If Enfield and Hackney can have segregated routes down their bits of Green Lanes, surely Haringey can

do the same.

Recently, the council introduced LTNs in Bounds Green, Bruce Grove, and St Ann's. We live within these LTNs and feel they have improved the area. There is less and slower traffic, and people now feel safer to travel around the local streets on foot and by bike.

60% of Haringey's households do not have access to a car. The introduction of the LTNs was a brave measure by the council to promote active travel and to tackle the social injustices caused by the over-prioritisation of cars.

To complement the LTNs, we strongly feel investment in additional active travel infrastructure is needed. This is the only way

Francesca, Harif  
and their son



people will see a bike as a feasible alternative mode of transport. People need to be able to get the entire way from A to B safely, not just random patches of it. If there was better infrastructure, people wouldn't need to make so many car journeys. This would lead to fewer traffic jams, less pollution, and free up the roads for buses and taxis. That's why HCC is campaigning for the council to roll out LTNs across the rest of the borough.

*If Enfield and Hackney can have segregated routes down their bits of Green Lanes, surely Haringey can do the same*

HCC was founded in 1978 to campaign for better cycling facilities in Haringey. Over the years we have had many meetings with the council and responded to local consultations. Our aim is to make Haringey a place where there is safe, enjoyable cycling for all.

On Saturday, 30th December, we'll be joining HCC's post-Christmas bike ride. Everyone's welcome, the more the merrier! And there will be plenty of marshals to keep everyone safe. Why not dust off your bike and come and join us from 11am in Chestnuts Park.

To find out more visit:  
haringeycyclists.org

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## Haringey Giving Week

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## Feeling the heat

Dear HCP

It was depressing to read that Enfield Council intends to plough yet more money into Energetik's heat networks in a recent article in *Enfield Dispatch* ('Questions raised over council-funded district heating network as fresh loan sought').

Energetik could work on helping residents all over their borough to decarbonise their heat – and even provide cooling for a hotter UK. But instead it is relying on developers connecting enough estates up to heat from the Edmonton incinerator, and on Energetik completing the miles of pipework to get it there. A high risk, with Enfield residents being potentially left paying a huge bill.

It is no secret that Haringey Council is also thinking of piping heat in from Edmonton when it could instead help residents all across the borough to decarbonise their heat.

Today's heating solutions have evolved out of all recognition from the satellite energy centres and miles of pipe routes that were considered when the carbon implications were calculated in 2015. Redoing the old carbon claims to compare the Energetik plans with the latest technologies (instead of gas boilers with their high carbon emissions and NOX pollution) would reveal how much carbon could be saved from North London heat and at no cost to taxpayers.

Today's low carbon solutions incorporate cooling and new and existing small local communal networks which can explore local sources of heat – ground, air, water, geothermal, data centres, etc. All with no uncompetitive lock in to Energetik, and all without delay, such as the suggestion of "waiting for nuclear fusion".

Energetik ignores the need for cooling, passes on false tropes about heat pumps, uses scarce funds to gamble on a legacy business venture, and yet is closing the door on the opportunity to support Enfield residents to upgrade to 21st Century heat.

I do hope that Haringey will not follow suit.

Sydney Charles  
Southwood Park

## Independents

Dear HCP

In 2022, I was incredibly proud to have local residents put their faith in me and be elected as a Liberal Democrat councillor for Fortis Green. Alongside me, residents also elected two Labour Party councillors – believing that the antisemites and 'loony left' members were a thing of the past, without Jeremy Corbyn at the head of the party. The Labour leader in Haringey made that exact promise to residents in the election campaign.

Less than two years later, we see how hollow that promise was, and how people in Fortis Green were hoodwinked. Their first Labour councillor was thrown out of the party for racist and antisemitic tweets just months after being elected, but refused to resign, and the second recently left to become a pro-Jeremy Corbyn Independent Socialist. They now have one Lib Dem and two independent councillors representing them.

People in Fortis Green deserve to have their vote count and choose councillors representing their values. These duplicitous independent councillors, who claim in their resignation letter that we should "trust the people", should stand down and allow a by-election, so residents can experience that trust and see that their vote matters.

Dawn Barnes  
Liberal Democrat councillor  
for Fortis Green

## Road anarchy

Dear HCP

I am concerned at the anarchic behaviour I see on the roads in Stroud Green and which surely must be the case borough wide. On a short local drive I would typically see electric scooters on the road and the pavement, cyclists riding through red lights and sometimes on the wrong side of the road, double parking, and U-turns on Stroud Green Road. During the hours of darkness, the legal requirement to have lights is not observed by a fair proportion of e-scooters, e-bikes, and also pushbikes.

The situation is dangerous and I have the impression that riding without lights in the dark is seen by some as normal and acceptable and they are oblivious to the accident risk. Is this matter being addressed by the police?

Tim Coles  
Stroud Green

# We are in a public health crisis for trans people

St Ann's ward Labour councillor Tammy Hymas explains why more needs to be done to make healthcare inclusive in Haringey

When I moved to Haringey five years ago, I had only shared the fact I was trans with a few of my closest friends.

My borough's vibrant queer and trans community, one of the largest in London, gave me a sense of belonging and the safety to be myself.

It was my desire to continue Haringey's proud history of queer liberation – extending all the way back to the establishment of the UK's first Lesbian and Gay Unit and the fight against Thatcher's homophobic Section 28 – that prompted me to stand to become Haringey's first trans councillor in 2022.

Yet as we mark this year's trans awareness week, exactly 20 years since Section 28's repeal, we must confront the barriers LGBTQ+ people still face, particularly the rising hatred and ignorance directed towards the trans community.

Last month, the Home Office reported that hate crime towards trans people had yet again increased, admitting that the rise could be fuelled by anti-trans rhetoric in the media and even from politicians. Not a day goes by without trans people being mocked, belittled and monitored in the press.

When accessing healthcare, trans people are waiting for over five years for hormone treatments that the General Medical Council advise could be prescribed directly by GPs after only 18 weeks with informed consent.

The NHS' institutional failings and its refusal to provide timely and supportive care to trans people has deadly consequences. Last year, a coroner's report

concluded that distress caused by immense wait times to access healthcare contributed to the death of Sophie Williams, a trans woman living in Tottenham.

The coroner ruled that more trans people could die "unless action is taken" given the barriers to gender affirming care and the transphobia widespread in mental health services.

Sophie's story felt sadly familiar. After sitting on NHS waiting lists for years, I approached my own GP to ask for their support in accessing widely available medication as part of my transition. I was initially denied on the grounds that they "didn't feel knowledgeable about transgender people".

The reality is that many LGBTQ+ people in our borough are not accessing healthcare due to their experience of discrimination and even hostility from professionals. Shockingly, 70% of trans people had experienced transphobia from their primary care provider, with 14% refused GP care because they were trans. We are in a public health crisis for trans people.

In response, I have worked with Haringey's Integrated Care Board, responsible for local NHS services, to fund two Haringey GPs to join LGBT Foundation's pioneering 'Pride in Practice' programme, giving them the skills and confidence to provide inclusive healthcare that meets the needs of the LGBTQ+ community.

Yet there still remains so much more work to be done.

Senior Conservative politicians recently pledged to force trans people to use hospital wards in line with the sex

they were assigned at birth, rather than how they live and present today.

There are very real inequalities in healthcare: Black women are four times more likely to die in childbirth, lesbian and bisexual women are twice as likely never to have had a cervical cancer screening, and there is a postcode lottery for trans people seeking NHS fertility preservation.

The NHS's institutional failings and its refusal to provide timely and supportive care to trans people has deadly consequences

Instead of addressing these pressing concerns, Rishi Sunak decided to scapegoat trans people in an attempt to conceal the impact of over a decade of NHS underfunding and privatisation on marginalised groups.

All this will do is compound existing inequalities, especially in Haringey, one of the most diverse and deprived parts of the entire country.

Now is the time for bravery: to stand up against these cruel attacks toward trans people.

In the 1980s, Haringey Council leader and later MP for Tottenham Bernie Grant stood resolutely alongside LGBTQ+ communities in the face of Conservative bigotry and an onslaught from the press.

I know that our principled, inclusive and welcoming Haringey community will thank politicians who show the same courage today.

If you are a St Ann's ward resident, contact Cllr Tammy Hymas:  
Email Tammy.Hymas@haringey.gov.uk  
Call 07814 373 419

Send us your letters

Email HCP@socialspider.com before Monday 11th December



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