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'Dark times' in Haringey as antisemitic hate crime rises by 750% in one month

There have been a number of high-profile cases of hate crimes in the borough since October, including reports of incidents which have taken place at schools

BY MIRIAM BALANESCU

aringey MPs have responded to data which shows a "deeply concerning" rise in hate crime in Haringey – including a 750% rise in antisemitism.

reveals that 192 hate crimes were reported from September to October 2023 in the borough, and between September and October there was a 20.7% increase in hate crime.

Reports of antisemitism increased by 61.8% on last year (October 2022 to October 2023), and 750% from September to October this year.

Reports of Islamophobia increased by 41.4% from October 2022 to October 2023.

Meanwhile, overall reports of hate crime increased by 4.9% from October 2022 to October 2023.

Since Hamas' attacks on Israel on 7th October, there have been a number of high-profile cases of hate crime in the borough, including Data from Metropolitan Police | the vandalism of the Beis Chinuch | bag. Two teen girls have been arrested

Lebonos Girls' School in Finsbury Park. A CCTV clip circulating on social media apparently showed a person in a balaclava targeting one of two schools with red paint, the other being in Stoke Newington. No arrests have yet been made.

Another alleged hate crime took place at Highgate private school Channing School for Girls. Last month, graffiti was discovered inside toilets on the school premises which allegedly read "kill Jews", alongside a swastika. An internal investigation is currently being conducted at the school.

In another incident being treated as a potential hate crime, a 20-year-old orthodox Jewish woman was assaulted by two people, who also stole her handand bailed, pending further enquiries. Leader of Haringey Council, Peray

Ahmet, commented: "Regardless of the motive, this was a sickening attack and will doubtless impact our Jewish residents, many of whom are already feeling vulnerable in the face of rising antisemitism in the UK since the outbreak of violence in Israel and Gaza."

A man was also arrested last month on suspicion of racially abusing a Jewish woman in her 30s and setting fire to her car earlier the same month.

Tottenham MP David Lammy commented: "The increase in reports of hate crime in Haringey is deeply concerning and reflects a worrying trend in the rise of antisemitism and Islamophobia across the country.

Continued on Page-2









Local news that matters to you

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ABOUT

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

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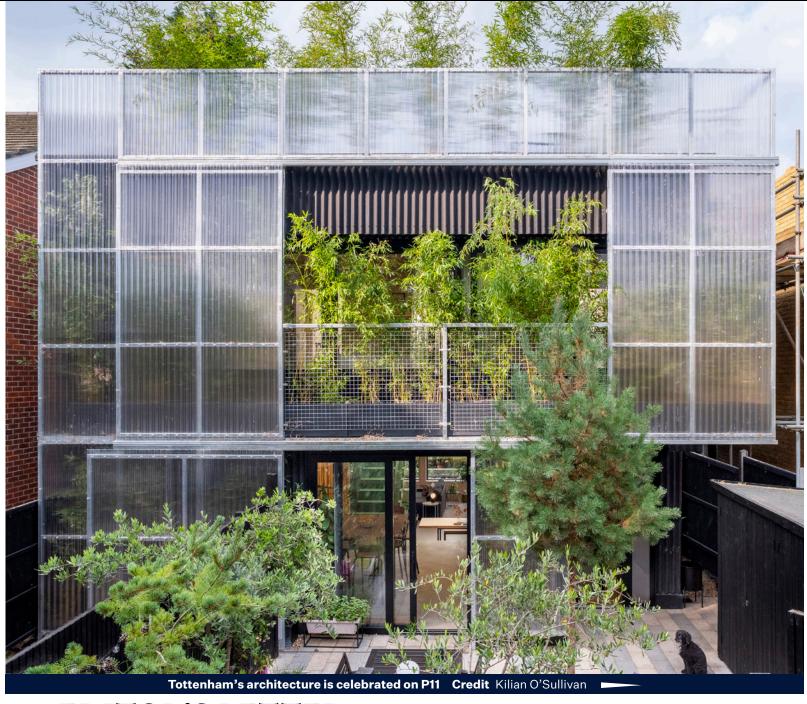




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EDITOR'S LETTER

ello and welcome to issue 27 of Haringey Community Press - and Leto the new year!

2023 was in many ways a whirlwind of a year for the borough, from raging LTN debates to Beyoncé's wavemaking arrival at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium (which had unforeseen consequences for local homeless families living in hotels, who were forced to move far out of London as a result). There was the ongoing battle to save an Oakfield Road tree - which still survives. Then there was the frustration caused by the

closure of public services, including Tottenham Green Pools and Fitness - with the council now set to take over from current provider Fusion Lifestyle this year. Alexandra Palace celebrated 150 years; Finsbury Park hit national news headlines as an obstacle course event churned the park into a pulp. Then there was the backlash against Haringey Council for "apathy" towards damp and mould complaints, and a housing repairs backlog.

This month also marks one year since I joined HCP and my twelfth issue of the paper. It's been end-

lessly fascinating, from delving into LGBTQ+ history in Haringey - unearthing pictures of George Michael dancing in the once-muchloved Harringay club Bolts - to learning about the borough's incredible Black history, including one of the first professional Black footballers for Tottenham Hotspur, Walter Tull. Our contributors have taught us about the rise of community pubs in Haringey, the tackling of hygiene poverty, or their time as former British intelligence workers. We've had a special focus on environmental initiatives in Haringey, finding out about unique community projects like the Garden Residents' Association, or Edible

Landscapes. It's also been a pleasure to speak to the likes of playwright Roy Williams, award-winning author Derek Owusu, iconic popstar Lemar, Biennale curator Sumitra Upham, and Olympic gold medallist Beth Shriever, as they visited Haringey.

2024 is set to be equally momentous, with the next general election expected this year. To help support us in our coverage, please consider joining us as a supporter for as little as £5 a month (haringeycommunitypress. co.uk/support-us). With no big backers behind us, your support really is crucial to our survival, contributing 11% of our monthly costs. Here's to hoping 2024 is our best year yet!

Continued from Page-1

"No-one in this country should ever be persecuted because of who they are. We need a zero-tolerance approach to hateful rhetoric that devastates lives.

"This is why Labour has pledged to strengthen hate crime laws to tackle and monitor antisemitism and Islamophobia."

Hornsey and Wood Green MP Catherine West added: "I'm extremely concerned to see such a rise in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia over recent weeks. Our diverse

community has a rich, proud history of standing up against those who seek to divide, and in these dark times we must unite again to say there is no place for hate crime in Haringey.

with Haringey police to make sure our community feels safe and welcoming for all and with our multi-faith forum to support their important work promoting dialogue "Nobody on our streets should feel | and bringing people together."

"No one in this country should ever be persecuted because of who they are"

vulnerable because of their faith or because of events in the Middle for hate and I will continue to work ophobic hate crime. This is absolutely on 101 or 999 in an emergency."

A spokesperson for the Met said: "We have seen a very concerning East. There must be zero tolerance rise in both antisemitic and Islam-

unacceptable, and we are taking action. We will be relentless in targeting those who commit hate crimes and threaten our communities.

"We have moved additional officers into our hate crime investigations - to ensure we are progressing investigations and bringing offenders to justice as quickly as possible.

"Anyone who sees an incident of concern, experiences threatening behaviour - including those online, or is worried about their safety in any way, is urged to contact police

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INTERVIEW

Composer for alt-J and Madness on his solo album about dementia

BY MIRIAM BALANESCU

oming from a background in classical music (first as a chorister at Ely Cathedral, then studying classical music), Will Gardner has an eclectic list of credits to say the very least. He first worked as a composer on Matthew Barney's avantgarde operatic film *River of Fundament*, then wrote for the likes of alt-J and Låpsley. He is also behind the scores for film and television programmes like *Ocean's Eight* and the BAFTAnominated *Blue Jean*.

So, in some ways it's hardly surprising that the Turnpike Lane-based artist's first solo project is experimental. *Remains* is a musical response to his father's Parkinson's dementia, which he suffered from until he passed away in 2015. "The idea behind the project initially was to try to do an aural imagining of dementia, which is sort of a ludicrous thing to try and do, I think – that's what it feels like now," says Will. "One way in which to try to do that was to break things up and damage them and disfigure them through digital processing."

Before he died, Will would read his father's diaries out loud to him to try to help trigger memories – and that became a crucial thread of the musical project yet to come. "At one point, he was like, 'oh who wrote that?" Will recalls. "It felt quite interesting to think about that – the idea that someone can write down their own memories, then hear them back and not remember them.

"For maybe three or four years after that, I just felt like I wanted to do something about it, about the experience that I'd had."

Taking the diaries as his foundation, Will began a process of attempting to translate them into music, hoping to capture some of what his dad had experienced with the disease. "I didn't want to have just the text there," Will explains. "It felt too explicit, and like oversharing. So that led me to mess around in my studio, just picking out phrases that I was drawn to, but being quite loose about it [...] as if I was just writing a song, and those were the lyrics."

Those phrases then left the rhythms and melodies which would become the framework for the final tracks on the album. Drawing on his background in piano and vocals, sounds recorded into Will's laptop would become digitally morphed or fused to create "weird hybrid sounds". "I don't really necessarily think of it as electronics," he

Will Gardner initially saw the project as an 'aural imagining' of Parkinson's dementia, written about his father's experiences of the disease

Turnpike Lane-based musician Will Gardner Credit Kate Loftus-O'Brien

I couldn't experience what he was experiencing

says. "Because I'm trained as a pianist and as a singer, I guess [on] the record is a lot that has just been disfigured. It's those sorts of sounds, which are quite acoustic sounds, but they've been disfigured through the electronics. I found that quite a useful way to just deal with the subject.

"Things grew out of other things," Will continues. "The structures of the tracks themselves feel like sort of a weird blur. [...] You don't quite know where you are in the cycle of the narrative, because everything's got a bit mangled and jumbled up."

The final product resists genre categorisation – while Will's background in classical and experimental music is evident. "I quite like the ambiguity in terms of the genre," he says. "Ambient music is just a weird term that covers so many different things and I think it does fit into ambient music, ambient experimental.

"I do feel that in terms of the process there is something classical that sort of underpins it, in terms of the way that I wrote some of the melodies, taking a text and setting that text, and then putting that through the electronic processes."

The musician feels ready to embark on further solo projects – and *Remains* has laid down the foundation. "I feel like this was quite an authentic thing for me in terms of the way that I like to make things," Will says. "My sort of classical, electronic hybrid thing will just be part of what I do, I think. I like the idea of being quite guided by something more intuitive than a really strong theme or concept."

Despite his initial clear aims, looking back, he says, the album had a very different message to the one he set out with. "It was quite difficult to find the right way to do it," Will says, "and to feel that I was doing it in a way that felt true to me and my experience and also to my dad's experience, and I think that sort of became part of the album in a way, that kind of weird opposition: I couldn't experience what he was experiencing. That was kind of what the album was about in the end, but I didn't really realise at the time. I devoted a lot of this energy to trying to create this aural tapestry of dementia, trying to imagine what he might have experienced through sonics, but I realised as I was doing it that some of the sounds coming out were a bit softer. I thought it was wrong at first, but looking back I sort of figured that that was my voice coming into the picture."

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Council set to take back control of borough leisure centres

BY GRACE HOWARTH, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

aringey Council has agreed plans to insource the management of three borough leisure facilities after a series of maintenance issues led to the early termination of an outsourcing contract with Fusion Lifestyle.

The council will begin to run Tottenham Green Pools and Fitness, Park Road Pools and Fitness in Crouch End. and Broadwater Farm Community Fit-

> ness Centre in Tottenham, once a one-year notice period on its existing contract with Fusion ends in October.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting last month when the decision was agreed, Haringey's cabinet member for culture, communities and leisure, Emily Arkell, explained

the advantages of the switch and the work the council has carried out to ensure a smooth tranistion.

"We'll be looking very carefully at how our leisure centres are run, what we provide, and we'll be listening to our residents," she said.

Cllr Arkell added that bringing these services in-house made sure the council was democratically accountable, and would directly tackle issues

Long-running maintenance issues have led the council to terminate its contract with external provider Fusion Lifestyle



plaguing the borough such as social isolation, loneliness and health inequalities.

Supporting the move, deputy leader Mike Hakata said: "Having control of our leisure services is the right step. We live in the borough, we understand and use the services ourselves, [and] | signposted by the partners on

this is the way we can provide the best service."

Cllr Arkell added that insourcing allowed the council to co-locate its services and work with partners like the NHS and public health team to provide them. Residents could also be the range of services the council offered.

Speaking on the council's relationship with Fusion Lifestyle, Cllr Arkell said: "We are meeting with them very regularly and continuing to monitor their delivery on a weekly basis."

Cllr Arkell added that the council had looked at other boroughs that had insourced their leisure provisions including Hounslow, Lambeth and Tower Hamlets, to inform their own takeover.

She said the council had in-house knowledge and staff with experience of running leisure services, explaining there were currently people working in the council who ran the service a decade ago, when it was last provided internally.

Cllr Arkell mentioned a technical survey was carried out at Park Road Pools and Fitness within the last twelve months and said this would also happen at other leisure facilities to understand their condition.

The council has now budgeted to spend £7.5million over the next five years on improving and maintaining all leisure facilities, of which £3.6million will be spent in year one. Tottenham Green Pools and Fitness, in particular, has been plagued by maintenance problems for over a year.

Protest outside council meeting as housing repair workers continue pay dispute

taff from Haringey Council's housing repairs team staged a noisy protest outside a cabinet meeting last month as they continue their pay dispute with the local authority.

Members of trade union Unite claim the pay offers the council has made so far amount to a real-terms pay cut after years of below-inflation increases.

Regional officer Simon McCartney spoke outside George Meehan House in Wood Green ahead of the cabinet meeting taking place there. Addressing the crowd of around 35 protesters, Simon said: "We are here at the council meeting tonight because Haringey Council is point-blank refusing to speak to our members in building services [...] We have a special boo saved for one person in particular, his name is Andy Donald and he's the chief executive of Haringey Council."

During the demo, which started before the cabinet meeting and continued for around two hours, protesters chanted "Andy Donald shame on you" and "Haringey Council shame on you" - they could even be heard clearly as the meeting took place inside George BY GRACE HOWARTH, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Members of the Unite trade union continued chanting throughout the cabinet meeting held last month



Meehan House.

The striking workers staged 15 days of industrial action in total across November and December. Simon said the council was using Conservative legislation to allow for contractors and agency workers to cover work while the housing team members were on strike.

Speaking on the policy, he said: "That was brought in and

specifically designed to undermine workers when they are on strike, signed by David Cameron in 2016 to do this specific task the Haringey Council are now using it for.

"They're hiding behind legislation used by the Tory government that this Labour council should have no thought of entertaining."

In response, a Haringey Council spokesperson said: "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.

"We are willing to have constructive dialogue to address some of the concerns that have been raised.

"Unite are claiming that we have brought in agency workers to cover strike action which is categorically not the case.

"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 effect on our residents during the strike days."



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Ally Pally awarded £550,000 to help restore historic east wing

The last remaining inaccessible part of the Alexandra Palace site could now be developed into a space for public benefit

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

istoric England has awarded a £550,000 grant to Alexandra Palace to kickstart work to bring a derelict section of the palace's east wing back into use.

The funding, which is the latest stage of the award-winning restoration of the Grade 2-listed Victorian venue, will enable the palace team to stabilise the north-east office building, which is "the last remaining truly inaccessible area" of the sprawling palace site.

programme of comedy and drama, and is now the home of the BBC's legendary Later...with Jools Holland. The restoration also acted as a catalyst for the Palace's burgeoning creative learning programme, which now works with 10,000 people each year.

The funding for the east wing restoration comes via Historic England's Heritage at Risk Programme, which focuses attention on the risk faced by some of the most significant sites in England and which, without grant support, would not be able to pursue restoration projects.

anniversary of our Heritage at Risk Programme has coincided with the 150th anniversary of the palace in such a fruitful way. I really appreciate the time and care taken by colleagues and partners across the country to support and save places like Alexandra Palace, which is one of our best-loved buildings.'

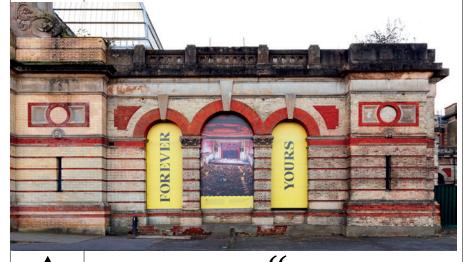
The north-east office building was used as far back as 1875, to house offices for administrators, a ticket office, porter facilities, costume room and the palace's first superintendent. It was last used by the Open University production unit, which broadcast educational programmes from the palace's TV studios between 1971 and 1981.

The structural work needed at the building includes removing decayed brickwork and timber, removing and storing of historic roof lanterns, and installing a new roof covering, was due to commence in December and is expected to take four months. It will be delivered with the support of Rooff as the main contractor, conservation architects Burrell Foley Fisher, cost consultants DR Nolans, and structural engineers The Morton Partnership.

Tom Foxall, regional director at Historic England, added: "Our funding for the north-east office building is designed to address the most urgent repair work and act as a springboard to access further funding which will open up the area to the public for the first time. We have worked closely with the Trust for a number of years, helping to shape and secure the repair of the building.

"Alexandra Palace is a vast site full of unique and intriguing spaces and we're pleased to be able to support this essential work, following a project development grant in 2020."

Alexandra Palace hosts over 400 events and activities each year, welcoming five million people to the park and palace. In recent years the proportion of the palace that remains out of use has been reduced from 40% to 29%. For more information



The funding will start us on the journey to bring these spaces back for public benefit, unlocking their potential

The grant will also pave the way for feasibility work into how the space can be developed for public benefit, for the first time in the palace's long history.

This grant marks the next phase of the major restoration project that saw the palace's Victorian theatre reopen in 2018 following 80 years of closure, alongside the transformation of the east court, thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Haringey Council.

Since opening in 2018, over 500,000 people have visited the theatre, which has hosted Madonna, Stormzy, Ed Sheeran,

Emma Dagnes, Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust CEO, said: "We are grateful to Historic England for such a significant grant in our 150th year. The funding will start us on the journey to bring these spaces back for public benefit, unlocking their potential and enabling us to welcome everyone through our doors with a wider range of activities and programmes.

"In doing so, we will build on our work to inspire people to be part of the future of this extraordinary people's palace.'

Duncan Wilson, Historic England's chief executive, said: "I've always loved Ally Pally and the Earthshot Prize, plus a diverse am delighted to hear that the 25th about Alexandra Palace:

Visit alexandra palace.com

Haringey bids to be named 'London **Borough of** Culture' for 2027

The council has submitted a formal bid to City Hall in an attempt to win £1.35m to spend on a year of local cultural activities

BY GRACE HOWARTH, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

aringey has entered into the race to be crowned 'London Borough of Culture' for 2027 – competing against eight other boroughs to receive an award of up to £1.35million.

The winning borough will deliver a programme of events, projects and activities to showcase their area's creativity.

Haringey's bid is entitled "Rebel Borough" and if chosen will see a year-long festival of culture come to Haringey with community-curated events taking place in all 21 wards.

The council estimates the programme would involve around 600 local artists and partners and see around 300,000 people participating in cultural activities delivered through the borough's cultural spaces, including Alexandra Palace, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Jackson's Lane and Bruce Castle Museum.

The bid forms part of Haringey Council's plan to transform the borough's cultural offer. Two influential figures from London's cultural scene, Yamin Choudury and Kenneth Olumuyiwa Tharp, have been brought in as the borough's new assistant directors for culture and creativity, to bring expertise and experience, while a new culture strategy is in the works to set out Haringey's ambitions for the coming years.

As well as naming a London our local communities."

Borough of Culture for 2027, three 'cultural impact awards' will also be given out by City Hall, which earn winners a prize of £200,000 each. All winners will be announced on 11th March 2024. Haringey won a cultural impact award in 2019, which funded a project called Haringey Feast.

If named London Borough of Culture, the council would build on the success of Haringey Feast, which concluded with an event at Alexandra Palace in November and involved over 2,000 local residents in a wide range of creative workshops.

Emily Arkell, cabinet member for culture, communities and leisure, said: "I'm thrilled to announce that we have entered our bid to be London's Borough of Culture for 2027. We have ambitious plans when it comes to culture and creativity in Haringey, and this programme would provide a major boost in supporting our arts and culture scene to thrive.

"Our successful Haringey Feast project showed our capacity to deliver superb, inclusive cultural events and activities that empower our residents to be producers and makers, not iust consumers, of culture.

"Our Borough of Culture bid is grounded in this spirit of collaboration and participation which would bring arts and creativity right into the heart of

The industry leader is also currently global head of diversity, equity and inclusion at fashion brand Burberry

ernie Grant Arts Centre (BGAC) has announced that it will be appointing Geoffrey Williams as its new chair. Taking over from award-winning BBC journalist Dotun Adebayo (who has held the post since 2018), Geoffrey Williams has become renowned for his work in culture, transformation, leadership development and diversity, equality and inclusion, with over two decades' worth of experience.

The global head of diversity, equity and inclusion at Burberry took up the position of BGAC chair last month to work alongside CEO Azieb Pool - while the centre "marks a real turning point" as a new Arts Council national portfolio organisation.

Geoffrey told HCP: "My hope as the new chair is to support Azieb in her agenda, looking at how we continue to offer the local community brilliant content that reflects their history, their journey and their own personal narrative, but also encouraging other people from London and other parts of the UK and the world to engage with the centre."

would hinge on "supporting the CEO and making sure her vision is clear, then connecting her to relevant people, function spaces, and organisations that enable her sations such as Thompson Reuters

Geoffrey explained that his role | to continue to deliver on her objectives for the centre."

> resources, Geoffrey studied at the Brit School before working with organi-

With a background in human

and Dr. Martens. He was included in the 'Global Diversity List for 2020' and Financial Times 'Top 100 Ethnic Minority Role Models'.

He added: "The exciting part [of the role] is engaging with Bernie's legacy and being able to do something that is creative, which, aside from my day job, I don't always get to do.

"I think the importance [of BGAC] is that it's a piece of how do we tell

our own story? How do we have a space to be able to invite other people in to hear and learn? And I think that's the beauty of the centre. It is about everybody, but it's also about being able to tell the stories and tell the stories in a way

that is true to the lived experiences."

On the importance of opening up the creative sector to more diverse communities, Geoffrey said: "We live in a multicultural Britain where there's lots of different people that should and could be engaged in connecting with the arts. Having attended the Brit School as a formative part of my journey, the arts have enabled me to have a thought process or understanding of creativity that enables me to come up with different ideas, but also how I collaborate and work with people."

HCP Jan 2024

It is about

everybody, but it's

also about being

able to tell the

stories in a way

that is true to the

lived experiences



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Maternity services at North Mid rated 'inadequate'

Inspectors said they were "deeply concerned" by what they found

he boss of North Mid has vowed to make improvements after the rating for the hospital's maternity services was downgraded by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Following an inspection in May, inspectors have written a report that rates the maternity unit at North Middlesex University Hospital as 'inadequate', after previously being rated 'good'.

Saying they were "deeply concerned" by what they found, some of the issues raised by the inspectors included "poor leadership", a higher-than-average rate of stillbirths, lack of record-keeping, and equipment

not being properly maintained. The CQC inspectors also reported that they'd received feedback from staff who told them they felt "bullied, intimidated and undermined by leaders".

In response to the CQC report, Dr Nnenna Osuji, chief executive of North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust, said they had "made significant improvements in all these areas in the six

months since the inspection took place". As well as maternity services dropping from 'good' to 'inadequate' overall, the CQC has also dropped the ratings for being well-led and for significant improvements were committed being safe to 'inadequate' as well. This year's inspection didn't rate how effective, caring, or responsive the service was. The overall rating for the hospital as a whole remains 'requires improvement'.

Carolyn Jenkinson, CQC's deputy director of secondary and specialist healthcare, said: "When we inspected maternity services at North Middlesex University Hospital we were deeply concerned to find both staff and women and people using the service being let down by poor leadership.

"Leaders lacked oversight of the issues we found, and we saw signs that a closed culture could be developing



within the service, discouraging to drive improvements. staff from speaking up to improve people's care.

"For example, there was a process in place to assess people's risks during triage, however staff were not using it, meaning they didn't always prioritise the people who

We have made

in all these areas in the

six months since the

inspection took place

needed care the most urgently.

'While many staff to improving the service, we found leaders didn't always support them to do so. Staff told us leaders didn't always

take action when they reported incidents, and some midwifery staff told us they felt bullied, intimidated and undermined by leaders.

"Women and people using the service also told us of poor experiences, but we found leaders were

"The trust needs to take immediate action to ensure leaders are listening to their staff and the people using this service to drive improvement."

Since the CQC inspection six months ago, North Mid says it has "reviewed and revamped" its clinical assessment pathway for triaging patients, improved training for staff and also increased staffing levels - recently appointing 20 new midwives.

Dr Osuji said the report "reflects many of the national challenges that are facing maternity providers all over the country" and added: "I acknowledge the findings, which focus heavily on triage, training and staffing. We have made significant improvements in all these areas in the six months since the inspection took place.

"I am particularly proud that so ences, but we found leaders were not always using people's feedback many of our nurses and midwives on CQC's website:

Visit cqc.org.uk/location/RAPNM

who undertake placements with us during their training choose to return to North Mid after they qualify, with 20 new colleagues most recently this autumn, increasing our staff base. We have also made some important changes to bolster our triage service.

"I realise that [the report] will be difficult for our staff and local community. I am and continue to be proud of the good in North Mid's maternity service, and am confident that the improvements we have made in the past year will continue, as part of our forwardlooking focus. I hope that local families will be assured."

In the CQC report, the service stillbirth rate in February 2023 was said to be 6.82 per 1,000 births, above the national rate of 4.8 - and significantly increased from North Mid's 2020 reported rate of 3.71.

Addressing this data, Dr Osuji added: "Any and every stillbirth is a tragedy. We strive continuously to reduce and mitigate any outcome of that nature. Based on the most recent data, our stillbirth rate is in keeping with maternity units of similar size and population demographics.

"Like all maternity services, we are working hard to reduce stillbirths and to address this and other inequities that unfairly impact our local community."

Chief nurse Professor Lenny Byrne added: "Our local community has every right to expect that their local maternity service is going to keep them and their baby safe, and we are determined to live up to that expectation."

The full report is available

Whittington maternity unit under threat

he maternity unit at Whittington Hospital is one of two in North London being considered for closure under a proposed shake-up of NHS services.

Because of declining birth rates, local NHS bosses are proposing to "align services with the changing needs of the community" by closing either the maternity unit at the Whittington in Archway or at Royal Free Hospital in Camden.

The NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB), which is responsible for commissioning health services across Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Camden and Islington, has launched a consultation that includes the options of closing either unit - with Royal Free being the current preferred option for closure.

The maternity units at Barnet Hospital, North Middlesex Hospital in Edmonton, and University College London Hospital in Euston, are being retained.

A final decision is expected to be made over the autumn or winter of next year (2024/25), and implementation would need to be "planned carefully before any changes are made".

In the meantime, there will be no changes to patient care or for staff working to deliver these services at present.

The maternity shake-up is part of

a wider programme, dubbed 'Start Well', which "aims to improve the quality and safety of care for pregnant women and people, reduce inequalities in outcomes and give every child the best start in life."

Jo Sauvage, chief medical officer for NCL ICB, said: "While NHS frontline staff work incredibly hard to deliver good quality maternity, neonatal and paediatric surgical care, services aren't currently set up in the best way to meet the changing needs of

"Fewer babies are being born in

North Central London and more complex care is often needed during pregnancy and birth, and we need to adapt our services to that. Our goal is to align services with the changing needs of the community and continually evolving best practice."

A 14-week public consultation began on 11th December with views from patients, staff and the public being sought.

Take part in the maternity services consultation:

Visit nclhealthandcare.org.uk/

Middlesex Jniversity Hospita NHS Trust



Two of Tottenham's architectural gems have been recognised with grants and awards

BY MIRIAM BALANESCU

s we leave 2023 behind and head into the new year, it seems Haringey's architecture has become one of this year's highlights. A greenhouse-inspired home has been selected as a 'house of the year' – while another of the borough's iconic buildings has just received a major cash boost to put it in good stead for the future.

The Green House – otherwise known as the 'Tottenham riad' – was completed in 2021, designed by architects at Hayhurst & Co. Last month, the Clyde Circus Conservation Area building was named 'House of the Year' in 2023's Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Architecture Awards. It was also shortlisted for the RIBA London Award 2023 and RIBA London Project Architect of the Year 2023.

The sustainable home features a 'living wall' of bamboo visible through sliding panels of polycarbonate and galvanized steel. The other side of the house is covered with corrugated panels of recycled cellulose and black bitumen.

The building has gained its nickname for its original inspiration: a Moroccan riad, a building which encloses an internal garden. Blending the outside with the in, the architects say the design draws on the area's heritage as a former home to "coach houses, orchards, greenhouses and market gardens".

Photographer Tom van Schelven owns the house together with Amandine Neyses, using the space to host picture shoots and as a stage for children's drama performances.

Lead architect Claire Taggart said: "The owners purchased the

site in late 2018 with a view to creating a long-term sustainable family home for their family. They approached us in early 2019 with their brief to create a five-bedroomed home that maximised living space, a sense of height and access to nature for their growing family – all on a limited budget of £550,000.

"The design for Green House draws on the natural history and verdant character of the site, providing a contemporary and low energy re-imagining of a domestic-scale greenhouse.

"As the concept for the house was inspired by the green character of the site, all spaces within the house have views out to greenery. Double-aspect long views are created throughout the house to front and rear gardens and surrounding woodland and trees, creating a sense of openness that connects inside and out."

Meanwhile, a building originally built in 1867 on Tottenham High Road has been handed £40,000 to ensure its survival.

St Mark's Methodist Church in Bruce Grove boasts a neo-Gothic chapel, along with Art Deco original features – including a square tower with cross-shaped windows built in 1938 often described as 'a mini OXO tower'.

It's one of the few Art Deco buildings in Tottenham, which is otherwise dominated by Victorian and Edwardian architecture.

This style is more typically associated with cinemas, making it an unusual choice for a place of worship, as well as the four shops embedded in the front of the church.

Recent engineer inspections have found loose pieces of concrete as a result of cracks and water seeping into its structure, leaving the church at risk of deterioration. The £40,000 will facilitate the renovation of the building.

David Hills at Roger Mears Architects, who is working on the project, said: "The St Mark's Methodist Church project is part of the Tottenham High Street heritage action zone, which is delivering improvements to a number of properties in Tottenham and is funded by Haringey Council and Historic England, and the additional funding from the National Churches Trust is fantastic news!

"As the architect for the proposals. I cannot wait to see this wellloved art deco landmark restored to its rightful status on the High Road as Tottenham's own 'OXO Tower', with repairs carried out to the historic 1930s concrete cladding and a new lighting scheme that will accentuate its key architectural features. New signage and glazing will provide a boost for local businesses and key public healthcare facilities, as well as providing a new entrance to the church, highlighting and celebrating its place at the heart of the community."

Claire Walker, chief executive of the National Churches Trust, added: "The National Churches Trust is excited to be able to support St Mark's Church to enable them to carry out urgent structural repairs to their building. Not only will this protect this important heritage, but it will help to keep the church building open and serving local people."







Tottenham
Hotspur
Stadium
opened in 2019

Thousands of jobs and £344m added to economy by new stadium, boast Tottenham Hotspur

BY LOUIS ALTMANN

ottenham Hotspur Ltd has said it expects to create thousands more jobs and homes – and millions more in revenue – across Haringey, Enfield and Waltham Forest boroughs over the next few years.

In an economic impact report produced by the football club and Ernst and Young last month, the club said that in its "tri-borough area", it expects to be supporting 4,300 full-time jobs by the 2026/27 season, up from 3,700 in the 2021/22 season.

The report also states that Tottenham Hotspur "plans to develop nearly 1,500 new homes, a 180-bed hotel, leisure and cultural facilities". The club says this will boost the local economy through an increase in population and tourism.

The development sites include 500 new homes across seven buildings at Goods Yard and 400 new homes across four buildings at The Depot, which both won planning approval this year, plus student accommodation at Printworks and a "vibrant commercial quarter" at Paxton17.

A revised planning application for a 29-storey hotel was approved by councillors last month.

Tottenham Hotspur expects its economic contributions to the tri-borough

A new report has spelled out the economic impact the Premier League football club is having in Haringey and beyond

area to increase by 70% between 2021/22 and 2026/27. The club says the main factors in this increase will be greater spending by in-stadium visitors, renewed sponsorship and commercial arrangements, and the reception of wages by more local non-playing staff.

The economic contribution metric used by the report is 'gross value added' (GVA) impact, which the report defines as "profits and employee salaries generated at each stage of the supply chain".

In the yearly GVA figures – for example, £344m in 2012/22 – the club includes not only its profits and in-stadium visitor expenditure, but also "off-site activity", which is visitor expenditure at other businesses near the stadium.

The GVA figures also include "indirect and induced impacts", defined as "the economic activity stimulated through its [Tottenham Hotspur's] supply chains...

and additional activity supported by employment incomes and consumer spending".

Around half of the jobs supported in the 2021/22 season were direct employments by the club; the rest were indirect and induced jobs. The "direct" GVA figure for 2021/22 claimed by Spurs is £229m.

The report also states the club generated £194m of tax for the UK in 2021/22 "via direct and indirect channels". This figure includes tax paid by Tottenham Hotspur as well as tax paid by local businesses and "throughout Tottenham Hotspur's supply chain". The study contains no exact breakdown of the £194m.

Both direct and indirect economic figures have improved since the last socio-economic impact report in 2015, when the club generated £120m GVA.

Many non-football events have been held at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium since it opened in 2019, including NFL games, music concerts such as Beyonce's this year, boxing and rugby. The report states that two NFL games and four concerts in 2021/22 generated £10m of GVA.

The stadium was also recently named as one of the venues for Euro 2028 after the tournament was awarded to the UK and Ireland.

Levels of deprivation and unemployment in the area around the stadium remain high, however. As the study highlights, North Tottenham is still considered among the top 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in England and, in 2021, unemployment in the tri-borough area was 6.5%.

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said: "It's fantastic to see the positive impact that Tottenham Hotspur Stadium has had in the local area – from job opportunities and skills learning to local small business investment.

"Football has the power to unite communities, and this report shows football clubs can play a major role in building a better and more prosperous London for everyone."

Tottenham MP David Lammy said: "Ever since the building of the new stadium, Tottenham Hotspur has shown a proactive commitment to community development, job creation and economic uplift. This report is a testament to the club's dedication to making a real difference to the lives of my constituents."

N E W S

Woman named 'unsung hero' for supporting disabled swimmers



BY JAMES CRACKNELL

A WOMAN FROM HORNSEY was shortlisted for an award from the BBC in recognition of her contribution to community sport.

Megan Allen, aged 30, won the BBC's 'Unsung Hero Award' for the London region, as part of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards held last month.

Megan, who is based at Park Road Pools and Fitness, has been volunteering for two years with WeSwim, an organisation dedicated to increase opportunities for people with disabilities to swim in London.

WeSwim recognises the mental, phys-

ical and social benefits of communityled clubs where everyone is welcome and relies on volunteers like Megan to provide welcoming and safe swimming sessions for swimmers with disabilities.

Megan was nominated for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year's Unsung Hero Award by Natasha Fleming, director of WeSwim. Natasha said: "Megan really stands out as an unsung hero. She turns up every week without fail.

"Our swimmers have a range of needs from needing mobility support like wheelchairs or walkers to not being able to speak following a stroke, learning disabilities or other hidden disabilities.

"Some of them need help getting in to or around the pool with a hoist. All of them need patience and a safe space where they aren't judged. Megan is really caring and able to have fun with our swimmers too, helping them to get the most out of their sessions.

"Many swimmers have ongoing issues to face, whether it's constant pain, transport challenges or longterm illness or financial difficulties but when they come together with Megan they are a smiling, friendly group and her influence has meant they support each other outside their sessions too, messaging each other throughout the week."

Megan volunteers alongside her full-time job helping the migrant community and, as well as running swim sessions, she finds time to help with WeSwim's social media too, bringing in new volunteers and reaching new swimmers.

Natasha added: "Megan is always found having a laugh and is the perfect leader. She inspires others and helps people be the best they can be – we need more Megans in the world!"

FINSBURY PARK

'Exciting plans' for improved skating facilities

SKATEBOARDERS ARE to benefit from improved facilities in Finsbury Park.

The project has come about from a partnership between Haringey Council and the Friends of Finsbury Park group, and will see the council invest £145,000 in a new multi-use skate plaza providing "new and inclusive skating opportunities for seasoned skaters and newcomers alike".

The plaza, which will feature moveable skate obstacles including kickers, a manual pad, kerb and wallie rail, will also be suitable for other wheeled activities such as rollerskating, rollerblading and entry-level cycling and skating.

The new skate plaza has been made possible thanks to the income generated by the council through hosting major events in Finsbury Park, including the annual Wireless Festival. The council receives around £1.2m from events annually, all of which it says

is reinvested directly into maintaining and improving the park.

Work is now underway on seeking tenders from contractors for the construction of the skate plaza, which it is hoped will be open to the public by spring.

Emily Arkell, cabinet member for culture, communities and leisure, said: "I'm delighted that, after listening carefully to the voices of our residents and park users, we have settled on an exciting plan for the future of Finsbury Park's skate plaza. I'd like to thank all the skate park users who responded to our consultations, and I look forward to continuing to work together with them as we make these plans a reality."

Find out more about the Finsbury Park skate plaza project:
Visit finsburyparkskatepark.

commonplace.is

WOOD GREEN

Post Office reopening branch after local campaign

BY LOUIS ALTMANN

THE POST OFFICE IS opening a new branch in Wood Green following a local campaign.

The new Wood Green Post Office will open in The Mall on 22nd January and will provide 51 hours of service per week, opening Monday-Saturday, from 9am-5.30pm.

Haringey Council and ward councillors had been campaigning for a new local branch ever since the former one in Wood Green closed last March, forcing residents to travel outside their neighbour hood to access services.

The new site will undergo a full refurbishment before opening day, incorporating three counters, cards, stationery, books, toys and gifts.

Council leader Peray Ahmet and Ruth Gordon, cabinet member for local economy, said: "We were dismayed to see the former branch on the High Road close and since then we have been campaigning alongside residents and ward councillors for services to be restored locally.

"We're relieved that Wood Green residents will no longer have to travel to access these vital services - this is a real win for the people of Wood Green."

Mo Islam, Post Office network provision manager, added: "We are delighted to soon be restoring a post office to this area as we know how important a post office is to a community. The branch's opening hours will make it convenient for customers to visit."

SOUTH TOTTENHAM

New council homes planned for estate

HARINGEY COUNCIL IS GOING ahead with plans to build 45 new zero-carbon homes as part of its longterm goal to build 3,000 new council homes by 2031.

Cabinet members gave their backing in December for the new development on part of the Turner Avenue Estate in Brunel Walk, after it won planning approval last April. The scheme will feature eight one-bedroom homes, 16 two-beds and 21 three-bed homes.

Almost half of the homes will have three bedrooms. Under Haringey's 'neighbourhood moves' policy, which gives priority to tenants on its waiting list with high housing need, local families around Brunel Walk who urgently need a larger home are likely to benefit from this scheme.

Around a third of residents on the council's housing waiting list have a disability or live with a family member with a disability and four of the 45 new properties will be fully wheelchair adaptable - offering residents the opportunity to incorporate



individual needs.

Each of the homes will also have high levels of insulation and incorporate green roofs, efficient heating systems and solar panels that will keep running costs low and avoid overheating.

Ruth Gordon, cabinet member for housebuilding, placemaking and local economy, said: "Haringey is in desperate need of new council homes, and we are doing everything we can to make specific adaptations to meet their this happen. I'm really pleased that we

are approving the delivery of another 45 high-quality, zero carbon homes.

"The new homes will also make a significant contribution to the surrounding areas that the whole community can enjoy. New play areas for young children will allow them to keep active and give them a safe place to have fun. Enhanced green spaces will provide social, economic and environmental benefits for people of all ages."

E

HCP

Jan 2024

N° 27

Progress on rolling out smart meters remains slow

Eamonn England at Haringey *Advice Partnership explains the* pros and cons of smart meters

ublic Voice delivers a number of communitybased services in Haringey, including the Haringey Advice Partnership, and through this work we come into contact with older people in need of support, information and guidance. As the government rolls out its smart metre installation programme, we've found that older residents are both embracing and questioning the technology.

According to official statistics collected by the government, as of March 2023, 57% of all homes had smart meters installed, translating to around 30.6million homes nationwide, including 31,000 homes within Haringey. It is hoped that in-home displays, showing how much energy is being used in real time, will help users to identify where they may be able to save money on their energy bills.

However, progress on rolling out smart meters remains slow. In a report published in October 2023, the House of Commons public accounts committee (PAC) warns that not enough has been done to ensure that the rollout has the support of the public. Reports from last winter of forced switching onto smart meters may have put people off from having one installed, although this practice has been temporarily suspended since February following intervention from energy industry regulator Ofgem.

Prepayment meters can be installed when a customer is in debt and are pay-as-you-go, meaning power is cut off if payment is not made. Ofgem has now tightened the rules, banning energy suppliers from forcibly installing prepayment meters for people over 75 with no support in their house and homes | meters won't save you money by

a consideration under the latest changes made by Ofgem. Smart meters are next-generation gas and electricity meters that can digitally send metre readings to energy suppliers for more accurate billing. You get one metre for gas and one for electricity. They are free but not compulsory in the UK, and whether you accept one is up to you, but they can be a useful

tool for managing energy usage.

It's important to note that smart

with children aged under two.

been taken to protect potentially

vulnerable consumers, but the

rules could be widened to include

more vulnerable people, especially

those over 65. People in the 65+

age bracket without support in

their home may find it difficult

to manage their bills and finances

at times and this really should be

themselves. It's down to the user We're pleased that action has to monitor use and make adjustments where necessary.

> Smart meters support a wide range of off-peak and variable rate tariffs. Suppliers could offer you tariffs that reduce your charges if you use power when it is cheaper for them to buy it on the wholesale market. They shouldn't increase your energy costs and could save you money if used properly.

We're pleased that action has been taken to protect potentially vulnerable consumers, but the rules could be widened

If you refuse a smart metre when offered, you might find it hard to access all tariffs. This is because in future the cheaper tariffs offered by suppliers might only be available to customers with smart meters. If you need to replace your old-style metre because it's unsafe, you might not be able to refuse a smart metre. This is because not many old-style meters are made now - your supplier might not have any in stock.

For further advice on smart meters, energy bills and keeping your home war contact Haringey Advice Partnership:

Call 020 4537 4084 Email hello@haringeyadvice.org Visit haringeycabx.org.uk/hap





Strength in solidarity

Dear HCP

aringey Welcome was shocked to hear of the police raid on the Kurdish Community Centre on 26th November. The centre was holding a cultural event for this substantial local community when a number of police vans arrived and numerous police officers interrupted the gathering. There was no warrant for this raid, and no explanation was given.

We are concerned that our neighbours are being targeted in this way. The raid took place a day after Grant Shapps, defence minister in the current government, held a meeting with his Turkish counterpart. We know too well the policies of the Turkish government towards its Kurdish citizens. The raid inevitably raises the worrying question of possible political influence in policing decisions.

We have been campaigning for several years to ensure that our borough, which is enriched by the presence of people of all backgrounds and beliefs, is truly welcoming to everyone. Incidents like this raid increase fear in minority communities, and risk sowing division between us. We ask our council to express its disapproval of the police action, and all our fellow citizens to join in support for the Kurdish community.

Haringey Welcome

Voting barriers

Dear HCP

believe every eligible voter should be able to vote without unnecessary barriers.

The recently published government-commissioned report on voter ID confirms what many already suspected: the requirement for photo ID discourages voters and denies them their democratic right.

Thousands were denied a vote last May due to the lack of correct photo ID, and many more people will lose their vote at the general election.

Independent research has confirmed that the photo ID requirement has disproportionately affected the groups that are already the most excluded from the democratic process.

The government has failed to propose any solutions, leaving us with a flawed system that is costly, unnecessary, and discriminatory.

I hope our MP will call for the voter ID scheme to be scrapped before it further undermines our democracy.

I urge your readers to make sure they don't lose their vote. If you do not have a photo ID, you can apply for the voter authority certificate, or you can apply for a postal vote, as these do not require a photo ID.

Marette Hickford
Haringey

Sustainable futures

Dear HCP

his weekend Friends of the Earth and allies in Haringey handed our 1,650 signature petition to Hornsey and Wood Green MP Catherine West and Tottenham MP David Lammy.

The petition calls for urgent support for people dealing with sky-high energy bills; a new emergency programme to insulate our heat-leaking homes; and an energy system powered by cheap, green renewables.

In Tottenham, over 9,000 homes lack loft insulation, and over 4,000 lack cavity wall insulation. In Hornsey and Wood Green, 8,900 homes lack loft insulation, and 3,800 lack cavity wall insulation.

Nearly two years since energy prices first began skyrocketing, millions of people across the country are headed for yet another difficult winter, as bills remain staggeringly high and with government support now at an end.

Too many people are facing the impossible choice between eating and heating again this year.

Despite being one of the cheapest and quickest ways to make a material difference to the nation's bills, the government has failed to roll out a much-needed street-bystreet insulation programme. The government has done far too little to unlock the potential of cheap, clean, homegrown renewable power. Both of these measures would boost our energy security, end our reliance on costly gas, help to pull millions out of hardship, and cut the UK's emissions.

Quentin Given

Tottenham and Wood Green Friends of the Earth

Send us your letters

Email HCP@socialspider.com before Monday 15th January



How City Hall is helping reduce the cost of living

London Assembly member Joanne McCartney on City Hall's efforts to improve transport, fund more police, and cut the cost of living

s we start the new year, I am prouder than ever to represent Haringey at the London Assembly. The vibrance and strength of our community in North London never ceases to amaze me.

The past twelve months, for many, were defined by the challenges we've faced from the government's cost-of-living crisis.

This has meant that Haringey has seen a 40% jump in foodbank use over two years – showing just how much the government's economic mismanagement is hurting the poorest. Families, those without jobs, and workers whose wages don't meet the cost of living, have been forced to turn to foodbanks to make ends meet.

At City Hall, we are doing what we can to lessen the impact of this crisis. As a living wage commissioner, I've been championing the London Living Wage, and we've seen it raised to £13.15.

By encouraging more employers to pay the living wage, more people can afford to live in London – and businesses see improved morale and better staff retention.

Higher wages will support the 15,000 Haringey residents who are forced to claim Universal Credit despite already being in work. I'm pleased that the higher living wage rate will give them the little extra they need to get by.

I'm especially proud of the mayor's free school meals programme which I help to deliver in my role as deputy mayor for children and families. An extra 287,000 primary school pupils receive a nutritious school lunch, making sure our children are ready to learn on a full stomach – and saving parents £440 a year per child.

We are also making London cheaper to live in in the long term. While the government has missed its own target on affordable homes, in London we've met ours, with 116,000 affordable home starts – that's 46% of the national total. I'm especially proud that London is building council housing again with 23,000 homes underway across the city, including here in Haringey.

We dearly need investment in our public services, which are buckling under pressure. Instead, the chancellor has announced real-terms cuts. After nearly 14 years of austerity this government is intent on more of the same – and we can see the pain this is causing our communities.

Despite this, at City Hall we are doing what we can to

improve our public services
– and protect London from
the damage the government
has done to the rest of the
country. We are funding more
police officers and have plans to
recruit 500 extra PCSOs (police
community support officers) to
rebuild our local safer neighbourhood policing teams.

Haringey has seen a 40% jump in foodbank use over two years

"

On top of this, we've seen the recent launch of Transport for London's new Superloop express bus which runs along the North Circular – speeding up journey times and helping everyone get around.

Throughout 2024 I will continue my campaigns to make Haringey a better place to live, including pushing for muchneeded signalling upgrades to the Piccadilly Line which would enable 36 trains per hour.

As your voice in City Hall I will continue to fight your corner and help deliver a safer, greener and fairer Haringey.

Labour's Joanne McCartney is the London Assembly member for Enfield and Haringey. To get in touch with her: Call 020 7983 5524 Email joanne.mccartney@

london.gov.uk

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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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Find out more at: haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/support-us

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