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Local photographer Holly Cato is exploring Christianity in the Caribbean community with her debut solo exhibition. Read more on page-12



‘Clarion has a duty of care’

BY ALICE KEMP-HABIB

Hazel Humphrey-Gaskin has lived in the same one bedroom flat in Tottenham for 13 years. During that time, her brood has grown from one to four and the space has become evermore cramped, damp and dangerous.

HCP met Hazel in a coffee shop in Tottenham’s Hale Village, a mixed-use development on which a new, 32-storey housing block was completed earlier this year.

She said: “It’s ridiculous. I look around at all these new builds and think, you can’t even give me a little space for my kids? I’m not asking for a mansion or a castle.”

Now pregnant with her fifth child, Hazel sleeps on a sofa bed in the living room with her youngest, Felyx*. The room is piled high with books,

toys and clothes, the walls and ceiling are mottled with damp and the window frames are black with mould. Her oldest, Kira, shares the single bedroom with her two sisters, Lena and Zara. She recently started year eight, and Hazel is worried about the impact that overcrowding will have on her education: “The poor girl sits on the stairs and leans on the top step to do her homework.”

“She used to do an hour’s reading before bed every night, but now we have to turn the lights off because the little ones need to go to sleep.”

“She’s becoming withdrawn. We put it down to teenage attitude, but it’s not that. She’s just overwhelmed.”

At 33, Hazel suffers with a catalogue of long-term health issues more commonly associated with people twice her age. Chronic pancreatitis and third degree heart block – to name only two – have prevented her from working

in recent years. She spends prolonged periods of time in hospital and said that the state of the property, as well as the stress caused by going back and forth with various authorities, has only worsened her health. At the time of writing, she is in North Middlesex Hospital after a bout of ill health. Her partner, Jordan, is taking care of the children. Due to the sporadic and ongoing nature of Hazel’s illnesses, he is unable to hold down consistent work himself. Meanwhile the damp and black mould are having a worrying impact on Lena, who “coughs every single night without fail”.

A spokesperson for Clarion said: “When Ms Humphrey-Gaskin moved into the property in 2009 it met the needs of her family, but as her family has grown the property has become overcrowded which has contributed to the issues she is experiencing with condensation and mould.”

Hazel feels she is being punished for choosing to have children: “I’ve always wanted a large family and having children has been a blessing to me, because it’s given me a purpose to keep going on the hardest of days.”

“At the end of the day, [Clarion] still has a duty of care to provide adequate accommodation, regardless of how many children I have.”

She added that the property was well below standard from day one. Aged 21, Hazel was living in a hostel and pregnant with Kira. As a result, she was “rushed” into her current home.

“When I moved in there was a mouse infestation, a ladybird infestation and a cockroach infestation. I was told that the kitchen cupboards and units were brand new, but there were bits of food still in there, stuff from the girl that used to live there before, like pictures and baby clothes.”

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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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Read about the Queen's visit to Wood Green on page-6 Credit Kenneth Peckham and Bruce Castle Museum and Archive



AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE EDITOR

HELLO AND WELCOME TO ISSUE 12. It's been a month of pomp and ceremony as we bid farewell to Queen Elizabeth II, the longest reigning monarch in British history. Turn to page 6 for an archive piece, in which former *HCP* editor Luchia Robinson recalls her visit to Wood Green. On page 4, you'll find an update regarding Homegrown in Tottenham. Those of you who have been following the story will be aware that the community group was evicted from a meanwhile-use space in

Tottenham Hale last month. Now, following a 24-day occupation, they have been taken to court by property developer Notting Hill Genesis. On page 5, Tom Barlow-Brown writes about the Green Lanes pub which has raised money for a community defibrillator, and on page 7, Manjit Dulay discusses the new initiative that is embedding anti-racist practice in Haringey schools. On pages 8 and 9, Avril Nanton celebrates Black History Month by highlighting some significant people and places across the borough

– including the UK's first Black female footballer, who played for Crouch End FC. On page 10, we sit down with the co-owner of Art-house Crouch End, while on page 15, Haringey councillor Anna Abela unpacks the impact cost of living will have on local councils. As regular readers will know, we launched an appeal for members in last month's issue. Firstly, I would like to thank the new members who have pledged their support since then – your support is vital. Secondly, I would like to encourage anyone

who can to join them. Our paper costs nearly £6,000 per month to produce and distribute, but our monthly income is currently under £4,000. At present, we have 75 members contributing around 11% of our income by donating as little as £3 per month. Their support enables us to do what we're doing. To find out more about our membership packages, visit haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/membership I hope you enjoy the issue!

Alice Kemp-Habib

Continued from Page-1
With four children in a one-bedroom flat – and baby number five on the way – one Tottenham mother discusses the consequences of overcrowding

Hazel has been on Haringey's council housing waiting list since 2017, and is one of 12,199 people in the queue for accommodation. She has bid on countless properties over the years. But she has been allocated to priority band C – the lowest of three bands – so her circumstances are not regarded as urgent. The fight for adequate accommodation requires time and energy, of which Hazel is in short supply. In recent months, she has been allocated a local authority-employed support worker, who advocates to the council on her behalf. A "sustainment manager" from Clarion fulfils a similar function, and is currently gathering a pack of evidence to bolster her chances of getting moved. Clarion is the biggest social housing provider in Europe, and manages over 125,000 homes in the UK. It made headlines this year after a series of media investigations exposed "squalid" conditions in many of its properties. In May, leveling up secretary Michael



Gove criticised the association for not meeting "fundamental housing standards". In addition to this, a cyberattack in June has left many residents unable to access key services. With regards to Hazel's property, the Clarion spokesperson said: "We will be completing a mould wash and repairs and will actively work with the resident to reduce condensation levels within her home. We are sorry for the problems Ms Humphrey-Gaskin has experienced and will continue to provide support whilst she waits for a larger home to become available through the local council." Hazel said she informed Haringey Council after her two most recent births. But, when *HCP* asked the local authority for comment, it said that only her "two eldest daughters" have been accounted for. A spokesperson added: "In August, Ms Humphrey-Gaskin sent some details that we had requested as part of her health assessment. We will urgently review this as well as ask for any additional information to ensure that all her family details are included on her housing application. Her housing needs would then reflect that she is severely overcrowded, and this would place her in band B, requiring a three-bedroom property. "The council strongly advise Ms Humphrey-Gaskin to contact her landlord, Clarion, to discuss her immediate housing situation. The council will also ensure that Clarion is aware of these issues." *The names of Hazel's children have been changed

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£20,000 offered to help find missing Highgate woman's remains

Norma Girolami was last seen in August 2021 and is now presumed dead

BY ALICE KEMP-HABIB

Officers investigating the disappearance of a 70-year-old woman have launched a fresh appeal for information.

Norma Girolami, who lived in Highgate, was last seen in mid-August 2021. A murder investigation was launched in October 2021. Now, a reward of up to £20,000 is being offered for information leading to the location of her remains.

In a statement, the Met Police said that Norma regularly travelled to Brent Cross to do her shopping, using public transport to make her way there. She was also a member at Archway Leisure Centre.

On Thursday, 19th August 2021, Norma made a trip to Leigh-on-Sea, which she was known to visit. She took the train from Barking and returned to London later that day. All communication from Norma stopped that evening.

Detective Chief Inspector Kate Blackburn, who is leading the investigation, said: "Since 19th August 2021, there has been no communication from Norma and no proof, or indication, that she is still alive. For those reasons we have to conclude that there is sadly no doubt Norma is dead.

"Did you meet with Norma in London,

at the leisure centre or in Leigh-On-Sea? You may have information that could help bring Norma's family the answers that they so desperately need.

"We are aware of the possibility that her body may have been buried in a community space or a graveyard.

"Did you see anything unusual in the days following the 19th August 2021, perhaps involving a grey coloured Kia Niro car that we have appealed for previously?"

"If you saw something that seemed odd to you, no matter how insignificant it may seem, please do give us a call and share what you saw."

Pia Graham, Norma's cousin, said: "It is now a year since Norma went missing and there is still no sign of where she might be, even though the police have been working tirelessly to try to find her.

"A number of us in Norma's family, and her friends, already challenged by daily life, whether it be due to poor health, getting older, or just difficult circumstances, have now had to face this bewildering and painful loss of a loved one who just seems to have vanished and apparently without any clue as to how this happened.

"Our connection to Norma has suddenly been severed. No more cheery emails or funny texts from her to



Credit Met Police

"The person we all loved has just gone. The whole situation is heartbreaking, as much as it is shocking"

"

brighten our days. No more carefully chosen cards to commemorate anniversaries, or uplifting messages – Norma certainly had a way with words. The person we all loved has just gone.

"And we do not feel we can even have a church service for Norma while she is still missing. The whole situation is heartbreaking, as much as it is shocking.

"My cousin was a life affirming, loving, kind and thoughtful 70-year-old lady who would never have left us in the lurch, and we can only imagine in nightmarish thoughts of what may have happened to her.

"So, please, please, as we have asked in the past, if you think you saw the woman in these photos on or around August 19th–20th last year, and no matter how vague your recollection, get in touch with the police and let them know. Thank you."

Norma's disappearance is being treated as a murder investigation and a man was charged with her murder in October 2021. He is currently in custody awaiting trial.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101 or Tweet @MetCC. All information is treated in the strictest confidence. To give information anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit Crimestoppers-uk.org.

Homegrown goes to court

Notting Hill Genesis obtains possession order after the community group squatted their land

BY ALICE KEMP-HABIB

Notting Hill Genesis has taken a Tottenham-based community group to court, after it squatted a building on land owned by the property developer.

As reported in HCP's September issue, Homegrown in Tottenham ran a food bank, Saturday school and advocacy service from a meanwhile-use facility (called Grown Tottenham) on land owned by Notting Hill Genesis.

In August, Homegrown – alongside other organisations and individuals based at Grown Tottenham – were evicted with barely two months notice. As a result,



Homegrown in Tottenham has been campaigning for a new space since August

some businesses were forced to close down and Homegrown was left without a space to host its pre-arranged summer school.

Homegrown had been based at Grown Tottenham informally since 2018. In May, they discussed formalising their tenancy with Notting Hill Genesis and signed a tenancy agreement. Notting Hill Genesis did not sign the agreement in

"If we have to run things in an ad hoc way, we will"

return, and the eviction notice was served shortly after.

Following the eviction, Homegrown volunteers and supporters squatted the facility in Ashley Road, N17, for 24 days, demanding Notting Hill Genesis find them alternative space to use.

Notting Hill Genesis has since obtained a possession order, forcing Homegrown to end its occupation. It plans to build new homes, creative studios, a nursery, retail units and a café on the land.

A Notting Hill Genesis spokesperson said: "Homegrown has now left the site at Ashley Road following a court order, allowing us to start intrusive surveys ahead of construction work on 353 much-needed new homes, half of which will be affordable housing.

"We have offered to keep in contact with them to ensure they are considered should a suitable site become available in the new development."

Homegrown is currently working with Haringey Council to find an interim space in Tottenham Hale. In the meantime, volunteers will run the food bank and Saturday school outdoors for as long as the weather permits.

Emma Djilali, who helps to run Homegrown, said: "We didn't want to just stop running our programmes, because then it leaves a lot of families or kids without that same consistency or support that's quite important to have.

"If we have to run things in a slightly ad hoc way, we will."

Haringey park wins award in memory of Queen Elizabeth

Oliver Tambo Recreation Ground named as UK favourite

BY OLIVIA OPARA

A park in Muswell Hill has won a unique award following a summer-long campaign to find the UK's favourite green spaces.

Oliver Tambo Recreation Ground (one of several Queen Elizabeth II Fields in the borough) has come out on top after a total of 364 local green spaces were nominated by members of the public, with over 30,000 people casting a vote in the competition.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge was a programme run by Fields in Trust in 2012, aiming to protect outdoor recreational spaces across the UK in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. There are a total of seven Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Haringey (Chestnuts Park, Down Lane Recreation Ground, Lordship Recreation Ground, Muswell Hill Playing Fields, Priory Park, the Railway Fields Local Nature Reserve and Oliver Tambo Recreation Ground). Previously known as Albert Road



Credit Haringey Council

Recreation Ground, the green space was renamed last year, after the South African anti-apartheid campaigner who was exiled to London in 1960. Following his exile, Tambo settled in Muswell Hill with his wife and children until 1990. The special award marks the Platinum Jubilee of Fields in Trust Patron, the

late Queen Elizabeth II.

Cllr Julie Davies, Cabinet Member for Communities and Civic Life, said: "O R Tambo Rec has already been recognised as one of London's six favourite parks and this additional award is an honour, especially as it commemorates the legacy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II."

Council plans for 58 new social-rent homes revealed

Council-led schemes will see new social rent homes built on two sites in Bounds Green and South Tottenham

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Plans for more than 50 social-rent homes have been submitted for approval as Haringey Council's house-building drive continues.

One proposal is to build 33 social-rent homes as part of an "infill development" at Woodridings Court in Crescent Road, Bounds Green.

If approved, the scheme would see the parking area between the existing buildings and the railway line demolished to make way for four new blocks of four and five storeys. It would provide 29 one-and-two-bedroom flats and four three-bedroom units.

There would also be new play space, landscaping and cycle parking, while the only new car parking spaces would be

for Blue Badge holders. According to a transport assessment submitted as part of the plans, the site benefits from an "established pedestrian and cycle network" and is "accessible to local public transport infrastructure".

A separate document claims there will not be a "significant impact" on daylight or sunlight levels reaching the existing buildings.

A design and access statement submitted as part of the plan states: "Our vision is to create additional quality housing to the existing Woodridings Court site and enhance the existing communal areas to provide an attractive place to live for all residents."

The Woodriding Court plans are currently subject to a public consultation that is expected to run until 14th October.



A CGI of the plans for Woodridings Court in Bounds Green Credit Collado Collins

They can be viewed by visiting the council's planning portal and entering reference HGY/2022/2354.

Plans have also been submitted to build 25 new social-rent homes and office space for the council's adult social services team in Kerswell Close, South Tottenham.

The proposals involve redeveloping a car park, commercial unit and open space at the junction of Kerswell Close and St Ann's Road and building blocks of two, four and five storeys.

The scheme would also be "car free" with the exception of two wheelchair-accessible parking spaces. According to planning documents, removing the existing car park "is not expected to have a significant impact on local car parking conditions", as the "small number" of vehicles using it could park "within the estate and surrounding roads".

A planning statement claims the scheme "optimises the potential of the site for a wide range of affordable housing and creates an attractive, safe, inclusive, and accessible new residential environment".

Plans can be viewed by visiting the council's planning portal and entering reference HGY/2022/2250.

Green Lanes pub raises money for community defibrillator

The Old Ale Emporium has fundraised £2,500 so far

BY TOM BARLOW-BROWN

Staff and punters at a pub on Green Lanes have pulled together to fund a new defibrillator for the community.

The campaign was started by Grace, a member of staff at the Old Ale Emporium on Green Lanes and the pub's landlady, Zena. Both decided to organise the campaign after losing someone to cardiac arrest. According to Grace many of the pub's regulars also know someone who has passed away as a result.

Grace lost her dad in October 2020 to a heart attack while he was at work. She said: "My family will always live with the question of 'what if there was a defibrillator? would he still be alive?' In 2022 no-one should have to ask that question." Zena also lost her best friend to a sudden heart attack in 2021. As a result they both decided it was necessary to fund one for the community.

So far, they have raised £2,500, which means they can now get a fully automatic machine and pay for an additional paediatric defibrillator. The team at the pub said the generosity has been overwhelming.

"My family will always live with the question of 'what if there was a defibrillator?'"

"All of the donations were raised by our amazing customers," said Grace. "We held a charity night during which we received vouchers and gifts from different local businesses for a raffle, which also raised additional funds, as well as Zena's lovely cooking."

Providing a defibrillator for use in Green Lanes is important as there is not one nearby that is accessible for the community.

The pub is currently waiting for electricity to be run through to the outside wall, where the defibrillator will finally be installed. The team at the Old Ale are pushing for that to happen as soon as possible.





When the Queen came to Wood Green

Last year marked the 40th anniversary of Wood Green Shopping City (now called The Mall Wood Green), which was officially opened by the Queen in 1981.

The Queen visited the centre for a 90-min tour of the shopping complex and ‘the village in the sky’ – the housing development on top of it, known locally as Sky City.

On the day, the Queen was welcomed by then Mayor of Haringey, Eileen Garwood and a crowd of 2,000 locals, amid a fanfare of trumpeters from the Royal Artillery.

The Queen was led through the complex meeting the centre manager and local artists with the art entries they’d submitted painting competition organised by Shopping City in liaison with Haringey Arts Council.

School teacher Michelle Holloway said: “I came first in my age category for a competition entitled ‘The Queen comes to Haringey’ and won art materials from WH Smith’s.

“My design was a stagecoach with the old Haringey logo as wheels. I was about 14 at the time. I remember it well. It gave me a sense of achievement.”

The Queen then met many store managers including Paul Taylor, the manager of D.H Evans, before visiting the traders in the market hall (a core feature of the development providing 54,000 sq ft for 80 traders).

Tottenham resident Kim Adams said: “I was standing in the restaurant of D.H Evans as part of an invited group, with

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, *HCP* revisits this piece from the archives

BY LUCHIA ROBINSON

my baby daughter. My mother-in-law worked in the restaurant and got us an invite. It was an honour to be that close to the Queen when she visited the restaurant as part of her tour.

“We all had tiny little flags to wave and my daughter wore a navy and white polka dot dress, trimmed with a red ribbon and red patent shoes. It’s amazing what I can remember from 40 years ago.”

The mayor invited the Queen to unveil a plaque commemo-

rating the inauguration of Shopping City, and then Haringey Council leader, Robin Young presented her with a framed first day cover. This was followed by Lisa Hutchinson, the nine-year-old daughter of one of the centre’s cleaners, presenting the Queen with a posy.

Lifelong Haringey resident Geraldine Marsand remembers the day well, she said: “We got half a day off school, so we all went up there. My mum had

told me not to go inside because the Queen was going to be there and she feared an attack from the IRA. I didn’t listen to her, I went in and saw the Queen, then couldn’t get out because they’d locked all the doors – so I had to confess to my mum.”

Upon arriving at the housing development above the shopping complex, the Queen was greeted by tenants, construction staff who worked on the site, and more than 300 school children.

The royal party toured the development, with the Queen meeting the Coralie family and the Newnham family – two families living in the new flats before officially declaring the estate open and planting a commemorative tree.

At the time, Henry Jacobs was a publicity photographer at the council. He said: “It was a major achievement by the Shopping City in partnership with Haringey Council to get the Queen to perform the opening.

“Although many royals have visited Haringey, I can’t recall the Queen being in the borough before or afterwards, and there was great excitement and a large crowd.

“I can remember Dickie Arbiter [former press secretary to Buckingham Palace, but then LBC radio commentator] being a judge for a baby competition.”

Before finishing the tour of Shopping City, the Queen was presented with a multi-cassette duplicating machine on behalf of Haringey’s talking newspapers service.



Embedding anti-racist practice will help close the learning gap

Alexandra Primary School, a school I was head of for almost seven years, has co-founded a groundbreaking two-year project called ‘Voices for the Future’, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Teacher Development Fund. The project, supported by a grant of £144,882, aims to improve the speaking and listening skills of pupils using creative and anti-racist practices. Crucially, the project will focus on the development of teacher’s skills to better support children’s learning.

Embedding anti-racist practice across our schools works directly to counter inequity in the classroom. Enabling this to happen in creative, supported ways will help build resilience, broaden horizons and raise voices.

In Haringey, we have huge disparities in achievement between white British pupils and particularly those of Black Caribbean, Turkish and Kurdish heritage. According to the ‘State of the Borough’ report from 2019, only 52% of Black boys attained grades 9–4 in English and maths, and children from Black Caribbean backgrounds achieved on average two grades lower than white British children. Children from Turkish backgrounds attained 1.5 grades lower. Successive lockdowns have only increased such disparities. In my school, we saw how children’s development of language and speech skills had been impaired.

Voices for the Future is a collaboration between Collage Arts, Haringey



A new borough-wide project is promoting educational equality through art, says co-founder Manjit Dulay

Creates, and six Haringey primary schools (Alexandra Primary School, Lancasterian Primary School, The Willow Primary School, Earlsmead Primary School, West Green Primary School and Rokesly Junior School). It will explore the ways in which an anti-racist led, arts-based approach to learning can help address this gap.

Anti-racism is a term that has been in school equalities policies for a number of years. By the nature of the borough’s culturally diverse make-up, all of our schools have diverse communities and I think it’s true to say that none of us have ignored racism as an issue.

However, the events of summer 2020, including the murder of George Floyd, brought it to the forefront of all of our minds.

In 2020/21 schools were audited around the whole race agenda. Hackney’s Diverse Curriculum (a nine-week lesson plan aimed at diversifying curriculums) has been a reference point, and The Black Curriculum has put challenging accepted norms of the education system at the forefront of the public’s minds. But what does this mean for schools in Haringey?

I believe it is about having an inclusive, supportive curriculum that challenges intolerance and

racism. It is about actively identifying and opposing racism while providing the space to challenge how we normalise racism everyday. It is imperative that we do this through our teaching and learning to achieve real and meaningful inclusion. Can working in a creative and arts-based way help us to do this?

Voices for the Future aims to support Haringey schools to test this out, working with intersectional artists from Collage Arts to support our students and teachers. Creatives from the world of theatre, music and visual arts will work with teachers and students in a collaborative way, drawing on techniques that stem from a range of cultural backgrounds. Together, they might write a play that draws on Caribbean storytelling techniques, or create sculptures inspired by African, Turkish or South Asian music. The crucial point is that the approach and knowledge would continue to grow in the school beyond a one-time project.

As we see the uptake of arts-based subjects for GCSE and A-Level go down, and the government suggesting that creative professionals retrain in tech, it is vital we ensure the arts do not go forgotten.

We hope this project is going to give teachers the skills and confidence to deliver inclusive arts-based learning across the curriculum. We will be sharing our learning beyond the six schools we work with, creating resources and toolkits for our community of schools in Haringey and beyond. I can’t wait to see where this project leads.

The Engine Room turns five

When The Engine Room opened its doors in Tottenham Hale in October 2017, it was the first new Anglican church in London for over forty years. Now you might be thinking, why do we need a new church building? There are more than enough around London already! But The Engine Room is a new model of church, based on an ancient idea. The medieval church in England was the centre of village life and usually the only decent building for miles, used for everything that went on from markets and meetings to festivals and parties – not just services on a Sunday. The Engine Room is based on that model; it is a community centre for everyone regardless of whether you are a person of faith or not. The Engine Room was built to be used every day, but also as a place for special occasions and significant life events, a hub for the community to use and enjoy.

We have a vibrant café, serving amazing food, a wonderful nursery catering for local families, and that is before we



Reverend Andrew Williams reflects on five years of community building in Tottenham Hale

get on to the numerous groups and activities that run from our spaces. There are parent and toddler groups, after-school clubs for kids, you can learn street dance on a Saturday morning while people over 50 can participate in an art group, a walking group or

gain computer and technology skills. For the teenagers we have a youth club, a homework club, a group for teenage girls and a boxing club starting in October. Our friends from Tottenham Mosque hold their Friday prayers in the centre each week.

Our community work and church began in a borrowed space at Hale Village in 2013, and as the new community of Tottenham Hale grew and developed we have tried to do the same with the help of some amazing local people who are passionate about Tottenham. We have built up some brilliant partnerships in that time, meaning that as we step into the next five years in our building, we are looking to develop even more opportunities for the local community. If you have some ideas about what’s needed in Tottenham Hale, come and chat with us, we would love to see what’s possible.

On Sunday, 2nd October at 11am our church community of St Francis – the heartbeat of everything that goes on at The Engine Room – will be celebrating our fifth birthday with the internationally renowned speaker John Bell from the Iona Community. Everyone is welcome to join us to help us celebrate all that has been achieved. However, if a church service isn’t your thing, then join us for lunch afterwards from 12:30pm. Everyone is welcome at The Engine Room.

Laurie Cunningham
1956 – 1989



Cunningham (right) playing for Real Madrid in 1981
Credit: Wikipedia

Laurie Cunningham was a pioneering Black footballer in the 1970s and 80s. His parents were Jamaican and came to live in Finsbury Park when Laurie was born (there is a plaque on the house where he was raised, on Lancaster Road). He began playing for Leyton Orient in 1974 and joined West Bromwich Albion (WBA) in 1977, where he met Brendan Batson and Cyrille Regis. They became known as "The Three Degrees", after the female vocal group. While at WBA, Cunningham, Regis and Batson, took part in a Black versus white football match (the Black players won). No such match has been played since. Laurie was the first Black footballer to represent an England international team organised by the Football Association, and the first British player to sign for Real Madrid.

1



NEW BEACON BOOKS
1966 – Present



New Beacon Books interior
Credit: New Beacon Books

New Beacon Books on Stroud Green Road was the UK's first Black bookshop, publisher and international book distributor. Founded in 1966 by John La Rose and Sarah White, the shop continues to sell books on all topics pertaining to the African and Caribbean communities. New Beacon has published ground-breaking titles such as Bernard Coard's *How the West Indian Child is Made Educationally Sub-Normal in the British School System* (1971). It has also been at the centre of some very political projects, such as the George Padmore and Albertina Sylvester Supplementary Schools; the Caribbean Artists Movement (1966–72), and the Black Parents Movement (1975–80). The George Padmore Institute is based above the shop to this day.

2



CY GRANT
1919 – 2010



Cy Grant
Credit: Windrush Foundation

Guyana-born Cy Grant was the first Black person to regularly feature on British TV, and lived in Highgate (a plaque marking his former home on Jackson's Lane was erected in 2017). He came to the UK in the 1940s to volunteer as an RAF navigator, and was taken as a prisoner of war in Germany during WW2. After the war, Cy trained as a barrister, but, unable to find work, he turned to acting and singing. Cy hosted a talk show called *For Members Only* in 1956, and appeared regularly on *Tonight* – a topical programme where he broadcast the news in a calypso style – in 1957. From 1967–68 he voiced the character of Lieutenant Green in Gerry Anderson's *Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons*. And in 1974 he established Drum Arts Centre in London to support aspiring Black creatives.

3



EMMA CLARKE
1876 – 1905



Emma Clarke
Credit: Wikipedia

Said to be the UK's first Black female footballer, Emma Clarke and her sister played for Crouch End FC in the late 1800s. There is a blue plaque dedicated to her at Campsbourne Primary School, the site where her club used to train. In 1895, she played in the first recorded women's football match near Alexandra Palace, which attracted over 10,000 spectators. In 1897, a special team was put together called 'The New Woman And Ten Of Her Lady Friends'. They played a male team called 'The Eleven Gentlemen', against whom they won 3-1.

4



BERNIE GRANT
1944 – 2000



Bernie Grant
Credit: Alchetron

Labour politician Bernie Grant was born in Guyana and came to the UK in 1964, where he enrolled at Tottenham Technical College before studying engineering at Heriot-Watt University, Scotland. He started his political career as a Haringey Labour councillor in 1978. In 1985, he became the first Black leader of a council in the UK. In 1987 he became one of the first Black MPs to take a seat in the House of Commons. On his first day he arrived in full African garb. Grant sat in Parliament for over 15 years before his death in 2000. A bronze bust statue was unveiled in 2007, and now sits in the reception of Tottenham's Bernie Grant Arts Centre. In 2012, a blue plaque was erected in his honour outside Tottenham Town Hall.

5



There has been a documented Black presence in Haringey since the 1600s, while there has been significant migration of Black communities to Britain at various points throughout history, perhaps most notably during the Windrush era, from 1948–1971.

Here, Avril Nanton – who hosts Black history walking tours around London, and has published a book on the subject – celebrates Black pioneers in the borough from 1895 through to present day.

It is not an exhaustive list. We could have mentioned Walter Tull, for example (the first Black officer in Britain, who went onto play for Tottenham Hotspur in 1909), or the launch of the Hornsey Co-operative Credit Union in 1964 (among the first of its kind in Britain, established by Caribbean members of Ferme Park Baptist Church who were unable to get credit from banks), but there simply would not have been space on the page.

You can read more about Black history across the capital in Avril's book, *Black London: History, Art and Culture in over 120 places*.

Visit avrilwalksandtalks.co.uk
Follow @avrilwalkstalks on Twitter and Instagram

From UK-first footballers to pioneering publishers, Avril Nanton celebrates Black history in Haringey

With additional research by Olivia Opara



1833 The Slavery Abolition Act The 1834 act abolishes slavery in most British colonies	1913 London gets its first Black Mayor Political activist John Archer is elected as Mayor of Battersea	1948 HMT Empire Windrush arrives at Tilbury Dock Migrants from across the Caribbean arrive to the UK to help fill post-war labour shortages	1954–1968 American Civil Rights movement The likes of Martin Luther King Jr, Malcolm X and Rosa Parks become figureheads for a generation of activists	1957 Ghana gains independence Under Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana becomes the first African country to gain independence from Britain	1958 Notting Hill race riots A series of riots are triggered by racial tensions between the area's white and Caribbean community	1959 London Caribbean Carnival launched Founded by Claudia Jones, it goes on to become the world-famous Notting Hill Carnival	1965 Race Relations Act It is the first legislation in the UK to confront racial discrimination	1971 Immigration Act Passed The act restricts the rights of Commonwealth citizens to live, work and settle in the UK	1982 The Voice newspaper launches The pioneering Black British newspaper is founded by Val McCalla	1987 Black History Month comes to the UK Taking lead from the US, which first celebrated Black History Month in 1970	1993 Stephen Lawrence is killed The murder of a Black 18-year-old becomes emblematic of police bias and institutional racism in the UK	2011 The England riots The police shooting of Mark Duggan in Tottenham prompts a series of riots across the UK	2018 The Windrush Scandal Hundreds of Caribbean citizens in the UK are wrongfully detained, deported and denied legal rights	2020 George Floyd is killed The police killing of George Floyd elicits Black Lives Matter protests around the world
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OLIVER TAMBO
1917 – 1993



Tambo in 1981
Credit: Wikipedia

Oliver Tambo was a South African anti-apartheid politician, one of the founding members of the African Youth League and a member of the African National Congress (ANC). In 1959 he was banned from South Africa by the apartheid government, so he moved to the UK and lived in Muswell Hill with his wife and children. Whilst in the UK, Oliver's role was to publicise the plight of Black South Africans and gain international support for the fight against racist apartheid system. He was eventually allowed to return to South Africa in 1990. There is a bust and a full statue of him at Oliver Tambo Recreation Ground, which was renamed in his honour in 2021.

6



ALEXANDRA PALACE MURALS
2018 – Present



Carleen de Sozer
Credit: Carleen de Sozer

On the south side of Alexandra Palace, a large street art mural pays tribute to three iconic Black women: Winifred Atwell, Evelyn Dove and Una Marson. Created by Tottenham-based Carleen de Sozer in 2018, these three women changed entertainment in Britain. Winifred Atwell (1914–83) was a Trinidadian pianist, the first Black woman to sell over one million records in the UK and the first to have a number one record (*Let's Have Another Party*, released in 1954). Evelyn Dove (1902–87) was a popular singer and actress who made history in 1939 as the first Black singer to feature on BBC Radio, while Una Marson (1905–65) was the first Black woman to be employed by the BBC during WW2.

7



DREPH
1973 – Present



Drephe
Credit: Drephe

Drephe – full name Neequaye Drephe Dsane – is a street artist who has murals all over the world. Tucked behind Ladbroke's in Tottenham High Road is the fifth in a series of inspirational murals called *You Are Enough*. The collection celebrates a range of women, from creatives to educators, who are making a positive difference in their communities. His contemporary portraits present alternative narratives and highlight living unsung heroes and heroines. In 2020 his work became a feature in *Eastenders*; a large-scale mural depicting the face of a Black female is displayed on the wall opposite the Queen Vic pub.

8



BODY MUSIC RECORD SHOP
1970 – Present



Body Music Record Shop
Credit: Haringey Online

During the 1970s and 80s, reggae music was the lifeblood of the Black community. Body Music was a popular record shop at the corner of West Green Road and Tottenham High Road, where Costa now stands. Independent music outlets like this were a hub for reggae enthusiasts, who flocked from all corners of London to indulge their passion. But the shop sold all kinds of music, hence the name Every Bodies Music. The shop opened as Third World Records in the 1970s. When the original owner moved back to the Caribbean, employee Fitzroy "Fitz" Sterling took over. As time went on, downloading and streaming became popular, but Fitz was still selling tapes, vinyl and CDs. The shop closed down in 2019.

9



Jenny
Hansworth

Five minutes with Jenny Hansworth

The co-owner of Arthouse Cinema on Dunns Bakery and her go-to spot for a veggie burger in Crouch End

Home is... Alexandra Park. Such incredible views across London and, I think, one of the best places to see spectacular sunrises and sunsets!

Which shops do you rely on? For food and drink, it's hard to beat Crouch End Food Centre, which has such a wide variety of products. They seem to stock virtually everything and even when you don't think they have it, they generally find it tucked away in a corner. Also, Dunns Bakery is a must.

Best meal you've had in the borough? That's a tricky one as it depends on lots of factors, but Banner's in Crouch End would be up there. As a lifelong vegetarian I'm always looking for really good vegetarian and vegan choices, which Banner's has, and they also make the best mojitos. I tend to go for their Sri Lankan aubergine curry or their veggie burger. Sumak, which is a few doors away from our cinema, is another good one with lots of veggie options.

Where do you go for a good time? Apart from watching good films at Arthouse, I try to do Ally Pally ParkRun, which I always feel good about after I've done it.

Why do you love Haringey? There are so many things to do in Haringey and I love the diversity, community, and creativity it has. I've lived here for over 40 years and can't imagine living anywhere else.

Where do you go for a moment of quiet? We are truly spoiled in Haringey as there are so many quiet, green spaces across the borough. I love walking to Highgate Wood and Queen's Wood and working through everything in my mind.

What's your secret Haringey spot? I don't think it's that much of a secret but Parkland Walk (which is the old railway track that ran between Finsbury Park and Alexandra Palace) is a great place to walk and see so much nature.

Where in the borough would you recommend for a first date? Definitely start at The Arthouse and watch a brilliant film and then on to one of the many restaurants/bars to finish your evening. We had a marriage proposal recently at the cinema and they said yes – thankfully!

A film that changed you? Probably the incredible South Korean film, *Parasite*. Such a clever, complex, and brilliant masterpiece directed by Bong Joon-ho. In 2020, it won the Oscar for Best Picture, becoming the first non-English-language film to take the top prize. I think I need to watch it again!

What's your one rule for life/motto? We'll cross that bridge when we come to it!

What food sums up happiness? Probably spaghetti arrabiata or chips.

What should HCP readers be watching right now? *Mrs Harris Goes to Paris* starring the excellent Lesley Manville. Also, we've been streaming *NT Live: Prima Facie* with the phenomenal Jodie Comer and I urge anyone who hasn't seen it to try and get tickets as it's just brilliant.

What are you working on at the moment? Well, we're very busy setting up more Arthouse Cinemas in Barking and Harrow – so watch this space!

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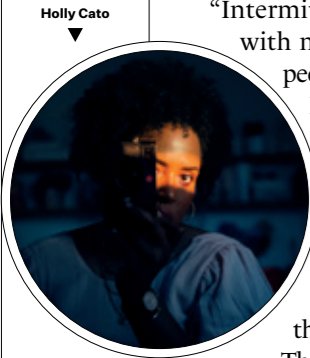
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BY ALICE KEMP-HABIB

On 6th August 2011, Holly Cato was snapping photographs at The Palace Cathedral on Tottenham High Road, as congregants prepared to stage an apocalypse-themed play. As an architecture student home for the summer holidays, she was no professional. But Holly had time on her hands and a point-and-shoot at her disposal, so she agreed to help out. While actors busied about backstage, crowds were gathering outside Tottenham Police Station on the opposite side of the road.



Holly Cato

“Intermittently I kept going outside with my camera. It went from 25 people, to 50 people, to the High Road being shut down,” says Holly, who grew up between Tottenham and Edmonton. “Eventually, 500 people filed into the theatre to watch a play about chaos and the end of the world, and outside was the start of the Tottenham riots.”

The cathedral doors were locked to protect those inside, so Holly climbed into a rooftop room, where she filmed “molotov cocktails being thrown and buildings being set alight” from the window. Her footage was picked up by news outlets around the world, laying the groundwork for a photography and film career that has seen her work with countless big-name brands (including Nike, American Express and Apple).

Nearly a decade on from The Palace Cathedral lock-in, Holly is returning to church with her debut solo exhibition –

Credit Holly Cato



Take me to church

Local photographer Holly Cato discusses the Tottenham uprising, Caribbean Christianity and Black British History ahead of her debut solo exhibition

Heavy is the Mantle – opening on Saturday, 1st October at the Leica Gallery in Mayfair.

Presented in time for Black History Month, the exhibition follows Holly’s uncle Herbert Cato in the days before he steps down as presiding bishop of City Mission Church in Leytonstone. The images, which are dually intimate and exuberant, explore Christianity in the Caribbean community, and the immense responsibility shouldered by church leaders.

“So many times when we think about

Black History Month, we think about America and the civil rights movement, when there are people here who are making history everyday,” says Holly. “That church has been standing there for longer than I’ve been alive. They are a staple in the community.”

Heavy is the Mantle comes as part of a wider Black History Month programme at the gallery, curated by Holly (who is Leica’s first Black, female ambassador). Throughout October, there will be a

series of talks from pioneering photographers, including Charlie Phillips, Eddie Otchere and Simon Frederick. Holly and Leica are also offering in-person portfolio reviews for 15 photographers, one of whom will receive a £5,000 grant to continue their work in the field of photography (two runners up will receive £2,500).

Alongside the Leica exhibition, Holly recently led a seven-day course for aspiring Black photographers in response to the Southbank Centre’s show *In The Black Fantastic*. The resulting images are now on display on level two of the blue side foyer in the Royal Festival Hall.

“I think it is important to champion Black artists because we’ve always had narratives told about us. There’s something revolutionary about us being able to tell our own stories,” says Holly. “So in everything I do, I try to open doors to more diverse voices and perspectives. The glass ceiling isn’t broken if I’m the only one going through it, and I’m really about breaking the glass ceiling.”



Bishop Herbert Cato Credit Holly Cato
“Heavy is the Mantle” will take place between 1st October and 1st November at Leica Gallery London, 64-66 Duke Street, W1K 6JD. For more information about the talks, portfolio reviews and the grants, visit: tinyurl.com/LEICA-BHM

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LISTINGS

Comedy

Saturday Comedy Cabaret
Saturday, 15th October, 8pm
Kings Head, 2 Crouch End Hill N8 8AA

The Kings Head pub hosts regular stand-up comedy shows featuring acts from the international comedy circuit. The Comedy Cabaret on 15th October will play host to award-winning comics including Michael Akadir, Pierre Hollins, Tania Edwards and Jack Hester.

Tickets £15 advance booking, £17 on the door
Visit downstairsatthe.kingshead.com

Theatre

Little Red Riding Hood
Saturday, 8th and Sunday, 9th October, 12pm and 3pm
Jacksons Lane, 269a Archway Road, Highgate N6 5AA

Flagship arts and cultural venue Jacksons Lane Theatre is reimagining the fairy tale classic ‘Little Red Riding Hood’ through puppetry. Featuring enchanting music and mesmerising stage props (think hidden hatches and secret compartments). The hour-long show is suitable for children aged three to eight years.

Tickets £10.95
Visit jacksonslane.org.uk

Board Games

Wood Green Library chess club
Every second and fourth Sunday, 1–3pm
Wood Green Library, 187–197a High Road, Wood Green N22 6XD

The chess club is open to people of all abilities and ages, from little’uns to pensioners. Participants will be paired with an opponent for friendly matches and taught the rules of the game in a fun and friendly environment. Eventually, teams of regulars will be formed to enter competitions.

Free entry
Email dalmar.gibson@haringey.gov.uk or husseyin.ali-diakides@haringey.gov.uk

Music

Mick Ryan & Paul Downes
Sunday, 30th October, 3pm
Shaftesbury Hall, 21 Herbert Road Bowes Park N11 2QN

Bowes Park Folk Club brings an evening of music with Mick Ryan and Paul Downes, a singer and guitarist duo known for their amusing and engaging songs. From personal and moving to light-hearted and whimsical, the pair dabble in contemporary folk and English traditional folk music. There will also be an open-mic session.

Tickets £8 for adults, £6 for children
Visit bit.ly/3UrgbXJ

Dance

ShebeenDUB – Nora Chipaumire
Thursday, 13th and Friday, 14th October, 7:30pm
Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Town Hall Approach Road, Tottenham Green N15 4RX

As part of the London-wide Dance Umbrella festival, multi-award-winning artist Nora Chipaumire is bringing an audio-visual exploration of dub culture to the Bernie Grant Arts Centre. She will be joined by international artists including Tyroneisaacstuart, Yinka Esi Graves, and Marguerite Hemmings, for a world premiere of her gig-slash-dance show-slash-social experience.

Pay what you can
Visit berniegrantcentre.co.uk

Fair

Muswell Hill Creatives Makers Fair
Saturday, 1st October, 10:30am–5pm
St James Square, Muswell Hill N10 3HP

Muswell Hill Creatives, a collection of local artists and makers, is hosting a fair to celebrate hand designed and homemade goods from in and around Muswell Hill. Expect an artful array of textiles, accessories, prints, ceramics and more.

Free entry
Visit muswellhillcreatives.com/fairs.html

Gig

Gnawa Blues All Stars
Saturday, 8th October, 8pm–11pm
Jam in a Jar, 599 Green Lanes, Haringay N8 0RE

Simo Langwani, leader of Gnawa Blues All Stars, will be performing at Jam in a Jar this month. Having performed at major festivals like Glastonbury, Secret Garden Party and Latitude, Simo will be playing traditional Gnawa music, a sacred trance music from Morocco which he fuses with other African sounds, as well as music from Japan, India, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Free entry
Visit facebook.com/jaminajar.co.uk

Cinema

NT Live: Jack Absolute Flies Again
Thursday, 6th October, 7:00pm
Arthouse, 159A Tottenham Lane Crouch End N8 9BT

Recorded before a live audience at the National Theatre, Jack Absolute Flies Again is a new comedy based on Richard Brinsley Sheridan’s ‘The Rivals’. Directed by Thea Sharrock and set in the 1940s, the story follows Jack Absolute, a pilot who returns home to search for his long-lost love following an aerial dog fight.

Tickets £20 or £17.50 concessions
Visit arthousecrouchend.co.uk

Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in Haringey. For next month’s listings, email the details of your event to hcp@socialspider.com by Monday, 17th October

Writing wrongs

A North London-based publisher is addressing underrepresentation in the industry with a new, free writing course

BY DAMIEN MOSLEY

On 18th October we at Indie Novella are launching a nine-week writing course for new, aspiring and experienced writers. What makes our course different to those currently out there can be summarised as follows: ours is the only publisher and literary agent-led writing course that is completely free and available to anyone.

The story of Indie Novella and the Indie Novella writing course began when we contacted Arts Council England to discuss the lack of diversity in UK publishing. The industry talks a good game about inclusion and increasing opportunities, but at the grassroots level, resources are still swayed very much in favour of the wealthier members of society. Over the last ten years we have seen a glut of writing courses created by publishers and literary agencies with titles such as ‘How to Hook an Agent’ and ‘How to Polish Your Novel’, and each in turn offers valuable insight into the tricks and tips of the publishing industry. The only problem is, they cost a fortune and thereby largely

attract a middle-class audience.

Some courses have started running bursaries and scholarships but have also been quick to pat themselves on the back for doing so, ignoring the fact that by creating this financial barrier in the first place, they are limiting inclusivity and accessibility in publishing and novel writing.

Indie Novella had other ideas. Arts Council England offered us funding to develop an online writing course that would promote diversity and make publishing more accessible for everyone. As a result, some amazing literary agencies have developed game-changing content for us, providing industry insight into how the submission process works, what an agent does, what they look for in an opening chapter and how to hone your characters. We have been thrilled to work with leading agency Watson Little on the production of this content. Through their guidance, new and even not-so-new authors will have the tools and knowledge to develop.

Many aspiring writers think that they have to attend expensive writing courses in order to be published. We want to demonstrate that

this is not true. Publishing should be about storytelling, and we need diverse, unique stories told authentically by people from a host of backgrounds. That is what makes reading exciting.

Both Watson Little and Indie Novella are North London-based, giving our course a distinct North London provenance. The Indie Novella writing course also includes significant contributions from those across publishing, including literary agents David Godwin and Philippa Sitters from David Godwin Associates (who represent Booker Prize winners such as Arundhati Roy, author of *The God of Small Things*). Indie Novella’s main aim is to create a partnership that involves other agents and publishers who all want to see the barriers to writing removed and work toward inclusion and diversity. Indie Novella is committed to making publishing more diverse and accessible and welcomes Haringey’s aspiring writers to our course.

Visit indienovella.co.uk/writing-course

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An Indie Novella writing course. Credit Deepesh Thobhani

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‘Change requires action’

Haringey resident Angelos Tsangarides on why local democracy matters

In Britain, we are incredibly fortunate to have a democratic political system — in some countries, citizens are not granted that privilege. On a national level, we elect MPs. On a local level, we possess the ability to elect councillors that we believe will represent our communities’ interests within the council. This is an incredible privilege. Despite this, during the local election in May, the majority of Haringey residents refrained from voting (the voter turnout was merely 34.44%), and thus wasted their democratic privilege.

As I cannot testify to the thought processes of those who chose not to vote, I shall instead illustrate two misconceptions that I believe are likely to have been a contributing factor to the tragically low turnout in May: the first misconception is the idea that voting will not make a difference. It is of paramount importance that residents do not adopt this harmful attitude. After all, if residents refrain from voting, it is likely that their interests will not be adequately represented within the council. The second misconception is the notion that all politicians are the same. This is simply false; politicians are merely people, and as with any group of people, some will be good, and some will be bad. Our democratic privilege allows us to vote for those that we believe will act in



our best interests. We must not allow problematic misconceptions to persuade us to refrain from voting, and thus waste our democratic privilege.

In addition to the right to vote, our democratic system also

grants us the ability to represent our communities’ interests and advocate for change outside of elections. We do this through activism. We are commonly exposed to activism in the form of protests and petitions — the

“
When elected councillors fail to represent our interests, we must do so ourselves
”

letter of which proves to be a useful tool to demonstrate the will of residents to local authorities in a formal manner.

There is a particular issue in Haringey that residents — including myself — find immeasurably frustrating: the council’s bi-weekly bin collections policy. In an attempt to combat this issue, I started a paper petition to urge the council to introduce a policy of weekly collections for general refuse bins. While canvassing to gather signatures for the petition, I was exposed to the intriguing opinions of my fellow residents. Among those opinions was a problematic belief that was repeated by multiple residents: the belief that the council will never implement change. I suspect that this misguided belief must deter many people from trying to effect change through activism and/or voting. Residents must not be fooled by this awful misconception — after all, change requires action.

To conclude this article, I would like to call upon my fellow Haringey residents to take full advantage of our democracy. Whether it may be through activism or simply voting, it is immeasurably important that people get involved in local democracy. After all, when our elected councillors fail to adequately represent our interests, we must take action and do so ourselves.

Ivatt enough!

Dear HCP

Haringey has submitted a proposal for new council housing that would build on the green space in Ivatt Way. The development will see the removal of at least 24 mature trees as well as a wild meadow and existing habitat. West Green has been identified by the council as having insufficient open space, and the council’s open space strategy says the following: “Open space makes an important contribution to our overall quality of life. It provides a sense of freedom and relief from our built environment, somewhere to relax and leave behind the strains and pressures of day to day life.” It is also true that we need mature trees to provide shade, carbon draw down, and air purification, and that replanting with young trees cannot be compared to saving mature trees. We would all like to see more new council homes, but this proposal on green space needs to be changed to a different site. That’s why I have signed the petition and would urge others to do the same: bit.ly/3RetesF

Tom Hoyland
Muswell Hill

Congestion chaos

Dear HCP

On 5th September, I attended a protest at George Meehan House against the low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) being imposed by our council. Labour councillors refused to engage with us, refused any questions and then called the police on a peaceful protest. This was a massive waste of police time in a high crime borough, and a real blow to democracy in Haringey.

Daniel Cook
Harringay

Far from the LTNs reducing congestion, even councillor Mike Hakata admits they have increased it. Local businesses, such as those on Myddleton Road, have lost 20%–50% of their custom and are facing hard times. Haringey Council must engage with the community and see the damage their LTNs are causing.

James Barton
Bruce Castle

Long live LTNS

Dear HCP

The arrival of the St Ann’s low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) has had an immediate and incredibly welcome impact for those of us whose children go to school in the ward, who walk and cycle there, or who shop or visit parks there.

We know the damage that vehicle traffic does – polluted air, injuries and deaths from collisions, the list goes on. My daughters’ school playground once reeked of traffic fumes; to dare to cross the road to drop them off at school was to defy death from speeding cars. This week, when they started school, the air was noticeably cleaner, the roads noticeably safer. We were able to talk on the way to school, instead of concentrating on staying alive.

It’s not perfect – drivers are clearly still confused, and it will take time for the message to get through. But despite a few noisy and angry objectors, we know that Haringey is merely doing what Islington, Camden, Waltham Forest and other surrounding boroughs did a long time ago. All these schemes have been proven to reduce road casualties and improve air quality, and have been overwhelmingly popular with those who live and breathe in these streets. I am confident this one will be too.

Councils cannot deliver the services that residents need

Anna Abela, councillor for Harringay ward, discusses cost of living, the mini-budget and what this means for local councils

With over a third of Haringey residents already living in poverty – the fifth highest rate across all London boroughs – the cost-of-living

A one-stop-shop helpline – easily reachable on 020 8489 4431 – has been set up so residents can get free financial advice, including how to claim benefits they may be unaware of and access employment support.

average inflation was about 3%, but this has now risen to just under 10%. The association estimates this will leave councils across the country with an estimated net funding gap of £1.4billion this year, rising to £4.5billion by 2024. Put simply, rising inflation means local councils will struggle to deliver the services residents need at a time when those services are needed more than ever.



Credit: Richard Pearce

Local councils cannot square this circle alone. This is a national challenge that is within the government’s power to address. The government’s last major decision on local council funding was made at a time when inflationary pressures were significantly lower. It should now increase this funding, particularly as, with residents struggling to buy essential groceries, it is simply not fair to ask them to make up this shortfall by increasing council tax rates.

Yet, aside from a paltry sum for energy efficiency projects, there was no mention of emergency funding for local councils in our new Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng’s first mini-budget last month – amid speculation that he intends to drag his feet on announcing a full budget until next spring. As the first line of support for many residents at the sharp end of this crisis, local councils cannot wait that long.

“
This is within the government’s power to address
”

Council tell me they had never seen so many residents reaching out to their councillors for support before this crisis hit.

I am hugely encouraged by the determination of Haringey Council’s cabinet to alleviate the impact of this crisis. In September, all councillors were briefed on the package of support measures already available to residents, so that we can spread the word within our communities.

These include a Haringey Support Fund to help low income residents pay for essential items and unexpected costs, and housing payments for residents facing financial hardship.

But despite our resolve to support residents through this crisis, local councils face the perfect storm. As demand for their services rises dramatically, so too has the cost of providing those services. Since joining Haringey Council’s corporate committee, which scrutinises the administration of the council’s finances, I have become painfully aware of the financial challenges that rising inflation poses to our council.

The Local Government Association – a cross-party body that represents over 360 local councils in England and Wales – sounded the alarm in June. When local councils set their budgets for this year,

Anna Abela is a Labour Party councillor in Harringay ward. If you are a resident, you can get in touch on anna.abela@haringey.gov.uk.

More information about the Haringey Council services available to support residents with the cost of living is available at: bit.ly/3C74dex

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Our newspapers are a growing and valued part of the local community – loved by readers who want to read about what matters to them. Be part of that and advertise with us!

Our publications *Haringey Community Press*, *Barnet Post* *Waltham Forest Echo*, *Enfield Dispatch*, and *ECl Echo* cover a wide area of North London and part of The City.

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- We have NO shareholders
- We have NO wealthy backers
- We are run by a small but dedicated team as part of a not-for-profit community interest company
- We hold authority to account, expose scandals, highlight inequality, promote good causes, and provide a platform for local people
- Every penny of income from HCP helps us deliver more journalism in Haringey
- The paper costs nearly £6,000 per month to produce and distribute, but monthly income is under £4,000 currently
- We currently have 75 supporters who contribute around 11% of our income, but we need more!

Can you help us? Our membership scheme has many different options, starting from £3 per month, depending on your ability to contribute. Rewards include having a copy of the paper posted to you every month. Local businesses and charities can also sign up and, from as little as £10 per month, access discounts on advertising.

Find out more at: haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/membership

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