Residents in North Tottenham are questioning regeneration plans which could see the demolition of 1,800 homes over a ten to fifteen year period. The community group, Northumberland Park Decides, an initiative of Haringey Defend Council Housing, is a group campaigning to defend council housing in Northumberland Park from demolition.

A recent council report states plans to demolish and rebuild new homes in Northumberland Park with a commitment to a minimum of 24% affordable housing. Northumberland Park Decides are concerned that the Council may not build enough affordable housing to rehouse all tenants. They want a proper yes/no vote to decide on any demolition plans. They are signing petitions and holding monthly meetings. “We think there should be a vote before any sales or any demolition, and a specific clear offer to people about what’s going to happen,” says Paul Burnham from Haringey Defend Council Housing.

The plans would mean the demolition of most of the estate, but the council has not given residents any information, causing confusion for many people about their future. There is very little appetite amongst residents for demolition, instead they feel the estate needs better management, investment in the housing, and support for the existing community. There would be no guaranteed right to return for tenants, or for leaseholders, to the estates after the new homes are built. Council tenants would be re-housed off the estate never to return. 84-year-old retired clergyman Rev. Paul Nicolson lives locally and strongly supports the residents campaign. He says, “We will be taking the petition to Councillors, MPs and Ministers, until they listen to our concerns”.

A spokesperson for Haringey Council said: “We have been working with local residents over the past two and a half years to understand their views about the area, what they would like to see improved and changed and how they want to work with us. These changes include potentially redeveloping parts of the local housing estates and deliver the new homes Tottenham needs and the wider benefits for the community in Northumberland Park. Haringey will retain control over the timing and quality of how any new housing is designed and built on council land. Once the Haringey Development Vehicle is established in 2017 we will work closely with residents to deliver new homes, new community facilities and new public spaces in Northumberland Park.”

Contact Northumberland Park Decides for more information:
E haringey_dch@outlook.com
T 07947 714 158

Next meeting:
Monday 21st November, 6:30pm
Northumberland Park
Neighbourhood Resource Centre
177 Park Lane, London N17 0HJ
STEADFAST IN DIFFICULTIES

Tottenham Community Press is an independent community newspaper. We publish bi-monthly and distribute 10,000 free copies of each issue to libraries, cafes, pubs, and other places around Tottenham.

Contributors
Jim Ottewill
Neri Gun
Paul Nicolson
M.S.
Tom Vine
Wendy Charlton
Alan Fisher
Stewart Hardie
Shakira Dyer

Tottenham Community Press

M.S.

I'm David and I'm the publisher of the paper as part of my job as Managing Director of Social Spider CIC, a not-for-profit social enterprise based in Walthamstow. Two years ago we got together with a group of charities and social enterprises to launch Waltham Forest Echo, a community newspaper for Waltham Forest.

The Echo launched as a quarterly publication. It is now published every month with an average of 15 local people contributing to each issue, writing about the issues that matter to them and telling the stories that the private sector media often ignores. The paper is funded via advertising from local businesses, charities and public bodies and distributed in community venues across the borough.

We're launching Tottenham Community Press because we want local people and community organisations in Tottenham to have the same opportunities. The paper's success depends on you – we need you to write articles, take photographs, help with distribution and buy advertising. We'd love to hear what think of our first issue and I hope we can work together to create a great newspaper for Tottenham.

David, Publisher

I have been living in Tottenham for the past year and whilst I am not originally from Tottenham, I am a north London native. I am currently studying modern languages out of an interest in having the ability to communicate across languages and cultures. I will be taking care of the paper's social media pages as an extension of the physical newspaper with the aim of following up on stories so that people can keep up to date on what is happening in Tottenham. It's really important for people to know what is happening in their local community and for there to be a resource like the Tottenham Community Press to give people that knowledge and raise awareness of local issues. We should invest ourselves in the place that we live and get to know our neighbours rather than them being strangers. I think that there is such a rich, vibrant mix of backgrounds and so many interesting stories to be heard so would love to be a part of sharing them with everyone.

Louise Davidson, Social Media Volunteer

During four years of mental health difficulties, I accumulated a form of community. Composed of people, outside of friends and family, I had met in NHS services, people I'd never met in person but communicated with via social media, as well as a combination of articles and literature that – although the authors were unaware – became a community for me. Through this unknowing community, I met Mark Brown – the Development Director of Social Spider – initially through Twitter but later in person at a moment when returning to any meaningful sense of work felt unobtainable, or unsustainable. With the support of Mark and David (see left) and through a Time to Change funded project Making Waltham Forest Mentally Health Friendly, I was able to re-engage and become a member of a tangible community again. Whilst at Social Spider we spoke of – amongst many other things – the time prior to my mental health difficulties when I was studying at the University of the Arts London (L.C.C.), which later led to my involvement in redesigning the Waltham Forest Echo and now designing the Tottenham Community Press. Upon the occasion of the inaugural edition of the Tottenham Community Press this gives evidence, that community is able to supply support, collectivity and means by which one of its members can enable themselves. This both strengthens its members as well as the relations between them. It is our hope that this newspaper can serve to provide such means for others too.

Jonathan Duncan, Designer

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MEET THE TEAM

Broadwater Farm defence campaign event, Tottenham High Road, 1988
Credit Bruce Castle Museum, Haringey Archive Museum Service

Tottenham Community Press

NOV/DEC 2016 – No. 1

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Tottenham Community Press

M.S.
The true cost

Rev. Paul Nicolson is withholding his council tax payment to fight for a minimum standard of living

By Paul Nicolson

I founded Taxpayers Against Poverty in 2012 to be a focus for those taxpayers who resent being used by politicians as a justification for cutting social security to a level which causes debt, hunger, ill health and homelessness. Aged 84, I live in the Tottenham Hale ward of the London Borough of Haringey, one street's width distance from Northumberland Park, one of the most deprived wards in the UK. In Northumberland Park, 10.4 per cent of children born have a low birth weight and life expectancy is 20 years shorter than in Kensington ward elsewhere in London. Research by the Institute for Brain Chemistry and Human Nutrition has shown that poor maternal nutrition leads to low birth weight and a higher risk of lifetime mental and physical health problems. That research contributed to my decision to refuse to pay my council tax.

We know from other research done by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation that the weekly cost of a healthy diet is around £40. Before April 2013, £73.10 a week Job Seekers' Allowance was not enough for a single woman to buy a healthy diet, the fuel to cook it and keep warm, clothes, transport and other necessities. After April 2013, the stress of rent and council tax arrears, their enforcement and its costs and bailiffs' fees, and benefit sanctions hit that low income further. Three days of adequate nutrition food from a food bank does not cover a nine month pregnancy.

In April 2013 I refused to pay council tax. I was summoned to Tottenham Magistrates Court on the 4th August 2013, along with 30,000 others that year (2013/2014). I had £125 added to my arrears when the Tottenham Magistrates awarded Haringey Council a liability order. Haringey Council was taxing the benefit incomes of its poorest residents in some of the UK's most deprived wards. I asked the magistrates how they arrived at the figure of £125 in costs; they refused to tell me.

I appealed that refusal to the High Court. It was heard by Mrs Justice Andrews who told both Tottenham Magistrates and Haringey council that their refusal was “indefensible”. She quashed my liability order. There is no doubt the 30,000 other liability orders were also unlawful but the High Court quashed only mine. Since the decision in my case, no council throughout England and Wales can refuse to show how they calculate council tax court costs and, happily, the level of the court costs has now been challenged in other boroughs. My case shook up a system of council tax enforcement where it had never, until now, been challenged before.

There are major issues remaining as unfinished business. The independent roles of the auditor, the magistrates and the council have become fused into one in the activity of council tax enforcement. Auditors treat the council as a paying customer shutting the public interest out of its auditing processes. And the council gets away with an enforcement of the tax and court costs.

Corporate overheads are paid by all council tax payers including late and non-payers. The purpose of council tax is to pay the councils corporate overheads and other costs. The Tottenham Magistrates approves these costs with no investigation at all. There is a serious battle ahead to ensure that every UK citizen has an adequate income and an affordable home with adjusted, or considered charges, to prevent debt, hunger and ill health.
Art activism
A local resident using art to campaign for her community

By Wendy Charlton

I have lived and worked in the Tottenham area of Haringey for over 20 years. I’m an Artist Teacher, which means I work as an arts practitioner mainly in community arts and I have my own art practice. Some of the local community groups I have had the pleasure of working with over the years include Somerford Grove Adventure Playground, Haringey Shed, Bruce Castle Museum, Art in the Park, West Green, Noel park, Broadwater Farm and Woodlands Park Children’s Centres, Chestnuts, The Brook and Willow, Bruce Grove and Tiverton Primary Schools. For most of these clients I worked with families to produce outdoor space playground murals. Other projects have included bespoke art workshops with various groups such as young people, families and adults with learning disabilities. For 6 years I was also an Art Tutor for Haringey Council’s Adult Learning Service. At present I collaborate with Art2View, Bloomings Creations (an after-school art club) and Workers Education Association in addition to facilitating a drop-in drawing class at Bruce Castle Museum.

As a local artist I became involved with the Broadwater Farm area campaign while walking my dog in Lordship Rec. The Broadwater Farm area campaign is made up of a range of local community groups and residents. In March 2015, Haringey Council released a proposal to regenerate the Broadwater Farm area to include Somerset Close, Lido Square, Moira Close, a section of houses on Lordship Lane and Broadwater Farm estate including the community centre. Part of the original proposal also included an allocated section of the Lordship Rec, to build temporary housing. Realising that I wasn’t alone in this, I decided to stage a temporary art installation piece in September 2015 using estate agent signs, which I re-designed with slogans. The signs were placed along a section of Lordship Rec and served to highlight the red line drawn around the proposed redevelopment area. This piece served its purpose as the council reacted and had the signs removed. Due to local opposition and a petition created by campaign groups the red line was subsequently withdrawn from around Lordship Rec.

Councillors need to work with and include community members in the decision-making process

Consequently I became more involved in the campaign to remove site allocation (SA62) red line completely from the Broadwater Farm area. I attended meetings and got to know people involved in the campaign with a plan to produce another art piece by summer 2016. In August I staged an exhibition titled SA62-Home at Lordship Hub to raise awareness, an installation comprised of ‘the incident room’ incorporating a large-scale drawing intended as a crime scene, interviews with residents and community leaders, photographs of the area and documents collected from meetings in addition to a blog. Another year later, residents and campaign groups are still fighting this cause and awaiting new proposals, which have been delayed for a further 2 years. This means the fight still goes on with hope for the red line to be removed altogether. The stories people told me for SA62-Home exhibition – about living in an area which is marked out with a red line for major regeneration - humbled me. Despite the usual complaints about living on an estate like broken communal doors, lifts and lighting, overflowing bins and maintenance issues, there is a strong sense of community that has been nurtured over a 30-year period by residents and community leaders. A feeling of uncertainty and distrust is felt among those directly affected by regeneration proposals. Unanswered questions about what the local authority is planning is an issue as is the common thought here that the buildings have been left to deteriorate leaving demolition as the councils only alternative.

The cat’s out of the bag as we now know that when people are moved out of their homes for regeneration purposes they never return as new higher rents are out of their reach. My personal opinion on regeneration is it needs councils to work with and include community members in the decision-making process. The idea behind demolishing huge swathes of social housing to build so called ‘affordable’ housing, which are immediately bought by overseas investors before they even hit the housing market is abhorrent. Something needs to change in our society as there will be huge consequences in the future for allowing this to continue to happen.

My next project is a commissioned piece to work with and represent a group of carers of profound and multiple learning disabled children who live in the Tottenham area of Haringey. The plan is to produce a social commentary piece similar to SA62-Home. I like to work in a way that involves immersing myself in social research for public engagement. How is this art you might say? Well it’s very practiced-based with some aspects of theory in the form of written and documentary style research. I do also produce work for more commercial settings intended for selling purposes, for example mural commissions or pieces for gallery exhibitions. However my preferred artistic practice is social commentary and art activism. As a person I have always felt passionately about human rights and social injustice issues. Being a single mother has changed me as a person over the years as I have had to fight a number of battles of my own and on my own. It takes a community to raise a child and feeling part of the local community develops after living somewhere for a number of years and forming a close attachment and even protectiveness over where you live. In the words of Mother Teresa “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”

To see more of Wendy’s work please visit:
W wendycharlton.weebly.com
B wendycharlton.wordpress.com
Seen

By Stewart Hardie

Stewart Hardie is a photographer currently studying at The Royal College of Art. His work has been featured at the following art institutions and festivals: Free Range, Old Truman Brewery, London, 2015; Swansea College of Art, Degree show, 2015; AiR's Exhibition, Swansea, 2015; Paris Expo, Swansea, 2014. For more information:

W stewarthishardie.co.uk

Are you a keen photographer? Do you walk around Tottenham inspired to share what you see when you see it? If so please contribute to our photography page celebrating the area.

E tcp@socialspider.com
The pilot project that changed a Tottenham thinker

Neri Gun and M.S., a Haringey Thinking Space participant and volunteer are eager to let others know about the local project

By Neri Gun & M.S.

Tottenham Thinking Space started off as a pilot in 2013 and after a successful two years, Haringey Thinking Space launched in November 2015. The Thinking Space was developed following the London riots in 2011, as a means of helping the community to deal with some of the issues they highlighted. It is a community wellbeing project aimed at bringing people living in Haringey together, to talk and think about their experiences, develop understanding and take steps to improve themselves and the community. The project encourages participants to reflect on their own and other people’s experiences and to generate ideas about how to address difficulties. The aim is to help them make changes and build the strength and resilience needed to confront adversity. This approach is unique because it combines individual wellbeing and community development. It has been proven to help strengthen interpersonal relationships, develop neighbourliness and build community support networks.

Neri Gun, a participant of Haringey Thinking Space shares her story: I did not often witness a gathering, which wasn’t either political or religious in agenda. The leaflet wasn’t clear, which in itself was thought provoking. I had to take a sneak peak into the unknown. There was never much going on in Tottenham so how interesting could it possibly be? Sitting down in the circle of new faces, I remember feeling anxious yet optimistic by the warm welcome. The million dollar question: what do you think Tottenham needs? I started blurting out the many thoughts and ideas I had. All I could think was, are these people for real? They listened so attentively. Genuine interest.

The riots had left Tottenham feeling depleted, cold and untrusting. A broken community, unsure of its future. Trying to rebuild from the ashes. I remembered the elders of our community talking about the Broadwater Farm riots. Never did I think that I would face that reality in my lifetime. Let down by the government, backs turned and faces cold, what would become of our beautiful, diverse community?

The regular meetings, week in and week out created an attachment to the group. For weeks the question of what is a thinking space arose. It was difficult to break down the boundaries of suspicion that had been built over years of neglect and disappointment. The constant promise of change yet the unrelenting cuts left a community hardened to any outside promise.

I felt the change within myself with my regular attendance to the group. I felt a bond and closeness growing with those who attended. A genuine care if someone missed a week. Slowly the group started to open up. Slowly we started to trust one another and the facilitators. Those who chose to attend started to talk of their dreams and ambitions. I for one felt there should be more spaces to share and express their thoughts and opinions. A space where the topics which where too often found to be taboo where no longer off limits. A safe space to offload, share, laugh cry or simply sit and listen. A space where the voice of the collective was acknowledged and given weight. An example being the request of the women to develop their skills in hospitality. The group was given the opportunity to do a food hygiene course, which in turn helped not only myself but also others to achieve employment goals. There was something very satisfying and supportive about these women working together to achieve an end goal. All walks of lives, all backgrounds, all races, working together, supporting one another to get somewhere better.

The Thinking Space was developed in response to the riots and following consultation with the community. It provides a safe space to talk about issues affecting the community and to come up with solutions.

A genuine care if someone missed a week. Slowly we started to trust one another and the facilitators. Those who chose to attend started to talk of their dreams and ambitions. I for one felt there should be more spaces to share and express their thoughts and opinions. A space where the topics which were too often found to be taboo where no longer off limits. A safe space to offload, share, laugh cry or simply sit and listen. A space where the voice of the collective was acknowledged and given weight. An example being the request of the women to develop their skills in hospitality. The group was given the opportunity to do a food hygiene course, which in turn helped not only myself but also others to achieve employment goals. There was something very satisfying and supportive about these women working together to achieve an end goal. All walks of lives, all backgrounds, all races, working together, supporting one another to get somewhere better.
Market movie

Anna Merryfield gets drawn into the rich diverse community at Seven Sisters

It would be easy to pass the Seven Sisters Indoor Market without giving much thought to what lies behind its unassuming entrance. However, step inside and you will soon realise that you are witnessing something very special. Stay a little longer and you will discover that the Seven Sisters Market is not merely a sales floor, it is a living, breathing multi-cultural hub; the site of many valuable social transactions spanning across language, religion and culture.

Whether you are a weekly or a daily regular, there’s no doubt that Seven Sisters Indoor Market, a film by Klearjos Eduardo Papanicolaou and Marios Kleftakis, will make you see the market a little differently, or prompt you to notice something you hadn’t seen before. And if you have never visited the market, then what better an initiation into this fascinating world than this beautifully shot, tentatively explorative film. Neither Papanicolaou and Kleftakis are what you would call Tottenham born and bred. Papanicolaou was born in Mexico to Greek/Mexican parents and was raised in Chile and the US, while Kleftakis is an Athenian Greek who’s worked all over Europe. But maybe that’s appropriate given the diversity of backgrounds present at the Seven Sisters market. The film itself is also difficult to pin down to a single genre or style. Simultaneously an observational documentary and a cinematic masterclass, it feels as though the filmmakers can’t quite decide whether to seek out and shape their story, or to just stand back and watch it unfold. More than anything, the film is driven by a sincere curiosity, a desire to understand and document this unique space.

The Seven Sisters’ Indoor Market is an exploration of a dynamic celebration of cosmopolitan diversity, where African, Caribbean and Latin American worlds collide and assimilate. What Papanicolaou and Kleftakis manage to portray is not just an insight into these different cultures and the way they mix with one another, they succeed in documenting an additional feature of this market place: they capture its function as a social and cultural centre for the traders and patrons who inhabit the space.

It is this element of the film which proves to be most fascinating. The traders interviewed speak passionately about the social value of the market. They describe it as a form of ‘therapy’ on several occasions, with one trader going as far as to refer to it as a ‘refuge for the immigrant’. The market encapsulates a whole community, ranging from the very young to the very old. It epitomises the kind of cosmopolitanism that London is so famous for. As one woman comments: ‘London moves because of the migrant.’

Seven Sisters Market is a site of many valuable social transactions spanning across language, religion and culture.

As most of those reading this article will know, the future of the Seven Sisters Indoor Market is currently threatened by the prospect of redevelopment plans. Though never explicitly adopting a political agenda in their film, Papanicolaou and Kleftakis make clear their support of the market as it looks towards an uncertain future. They do this not by aggressively pushing their point, but by making their film into a joyous and beautiful homage to the market and all of its endearing characters. Furthermore, they demonstrate the important role it plays in giving a sense of real autonomy to its traders and patrons; acknowledging the real value in these cultural and social exchanges and prompting the question: is there more than one way to measure value? And what might the consequences be if London’s worth continues to be measured in purely financial terms?

The Seven Sisters Indoor Market is more of an ethnographic exploration than an edge of your seat documentary. It is beautifully executed and succeeds in elevating ordinary scenes from the market to moments of real aesthetic beauty. I highly recommend making the time to catch one of their screenings.

Next screening Hackney
Picturehouse, 10th of November.
For more details:
W sevensistersmarketfilm.com

A Community Land Trust, doing its bit to address the housing crisis

By Tom Vine

The housing crisis in Britain is one of the biggest issues facing us today. Currently in London, around 25,000 homes are built every year. It is accepted that double that figure is needed to meet demand. However, many of the homes being built are not affordable enough for most Londoners and the situation does not seem to be getting better any time soon. It is at this point that communities must take it into their own hands to tackle the crisis head-on.

The St Ann’s Redevelopment Trust (START) in Tottenham is doing just that. Set up and run by a group of local residents and workers, START aims to build genuinely affordable homes on the site of St Ann’s Hospital, two thirds of which is being sold off by Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust.

START is a group of Haringey residents and workers who want to see the St Ann’s Hospital site used for the good of the community. The group aim to reflect the wants and needs of the local community in the plans to be submitted for the site. Recently, two consultations were held to get community opinions on the latest plans for the site. These were attended by over 70 local residents. In addition to this, in the past year START have conducted a survey which received over 300 responses, and they carried out an additional round of consultations in February this year.

The number of suggestions and ideas put forward by local residents has been overwhelming and have all fed in to START’s plans for the site. The START group are currently at the last round of planning before final recommendations are submitted for the architects to draw up. Once this is completed, the architects will draft a master plan to be used as the official bid later this year.

The next challenge is to convince the decision-makers that START’s plans are best-suited to the local community, and to achieve our goal of providing genuine affordable housing in the area.

To do this, START need as much support from the local community as possible. If you would like to offer your support, visit:
W startharingey.co.uk

Tottenham Community Press

Tottenham Community Press is a new independent Community Paper. We want to hear your views, your news and to report stories relevant to the people of Tottenham. Our aim is to return to a form of local media which addresses and reflects the opinions, concerns and interests of local people. We are looking for local stories, opinions, news stories, events, campaigns and photographs. If you would like to contribute a local story or get involved please get in contact with the team, email: tcp@socialspider.com

Become a member of Tottenham Community Press

Do you think our media could be different? Could we create our own media together? Being a member means you get a bigger role in shaping our media. You will be invited to discuss the Tottenham Community Press and your name will be printed in the paper. All money received will be invested in the running of Tottenham Community Press. To find out more and sign up, email: tcp@socialspider.com
We are here

A spotlight on Tottenham’s graffiti alley and the man who dared dream it

By Adjoa Wiredu

Off the main high road at Bruce Grove, a grey nondescript alley is the only route leading to Stoneleigh Court. After a short walk down, it changes dramatically and soon becomes obvious that street artists frequent this path. Acid yellows, fiery reds, bruised purples and every colour you can imagine, sprayed directly onto bricks, shutters and concrete. For those familiar with the alley, it only takes a moment to recognise tags and crew names of locals and famous international artists who have paid a visit and left their mark. At the very end of the pathway, a tiny opening to a shop appears on your right; home to hundreds of spray cans and Billy Hussain – the owner of VIP Graffiti Paint.

Billy owned a sports shop, at the same address, before 2011. It was looted and vandalised during the riots and eventually after help, recovery and a dream one night, he decided to reopen the shop as a space selling spray paints. It has since become a space for local and international artists to buy paints, use the walls for new artwork, tags and a place to also meet and work with other artists. “Two years ago, I knew none of these people. I knew nothing of them,” says Billy. He tells me he found getting the paints to his shop fairly simple but it was the relationships with customers which took time: “Gradually, it took a while to make it happen because initially they were sceptical about me. Very hard but slowly, it’s love.” He explains that some locals were not sure how to receive the artwork around the shop: “When we first started, a guy asked if he could paint the shutter around the corner, when I went around to look there were two policeman laughing and they asked ‘What’s this about?’ I told them, ‘What this is about is the guy who painted this had a crack problem for many years and he uses this paint to keep him off and what he’s saying there is he’s met the devil and lived to tell the story, he’s clean now.’ After that incident, he says he saw them stop to take pictures of the artwork. That experience and others have made Billy quick to defend his customers. “These people that some demonise as vandals are real people with real passion, real feeling, they do this because they love it.” But he also gets a good response from others in the community. “Someone came along and said ‘I know people moan about it but it’s so colourful, it’s like looking at a plant.’”

A local customer, Patrick Pank-anin is an artist and a fan of the shop. He loves the variety he can get here. “I have never seen so many cans in one shop!” Although the shop looks fairly small from the outside, once inside, there are two floors with a lounge upstairs, the main shop floor to sell paints at ground level as well as an office at the back. Even with the space, it somehow feels snug and easy to speak to anyone in the shop. “It’s all about the love you have in one place, see this guy walking around the paint,” he asks, where have you been [in paint shops] where you can walk around the shop and look like that?” Patrick jumps in, “None to be honest.” They both educate me a little on the process. Apparentely, the normal way to buy paints is from behind a cage while pointing or asking the shop keeper for what you want to purchase. At VIP Graffiti Paint, customers can walk around, touch and have a closer look, even relax upstairs with a drink before making a purchase. They then have walls just outside to start their artwork.

There is a lot of graffiti on the walls at Stoneleigh Court but it’s never the same on any two visits. “It’s constantly changing, every week it gets changed,” says Billy and so much so that he constantly takes pictures for his Instagram page to show the variety of artists he gets in. He tells me it helps to create a dialogue and appreciation for the community of artists who come in and out of his shop. Billy gets regular visits from many artists across London as well as respected international artists: “I’ve got a guy who came from South Africa, Falko...He came and asked to paint here and he’s huge. I get people coming from New York and Chicago...Kilo came here once, these are big writers, you can tell these are big players,” he says, pointing at the wall of sophisticated shapes and tags. With all our economic issues, Billy says that art may be a better way to live. “It’s about doing something that gives you self satisfaction. It’s not always about money, this is where we all lose it in this world. It’s all greed. Everything is designed to pick you up and take from you.” He tells me the art world in Tottenham is different. It’s not about taking, it’s more about giving and the evidence is written all over his wall.
By Jim Ottewill

Tottenham’s post codes, roads and estates are an essential element in the DNA of the unruly beats and bars of UK grime. In large part it’s thanks to the dedication and success of the area’s favourite sons, brothers Skepta and JME, (to their mum, Joseph and Jamie Adenuga), that this British phenomena has travelled so far. While they’ve been key players since the scene’s inception, their latest albums – Mercury Prize winning Konnichiwa and Integrity respectively – and Boy Better Know crew have landed a knock-out blow on the mainstream music industry.

Grime was born in the raves and pirate radio of the early noughties, muddied by major labels attempt to mould its leaders – see Dizzee Rascal, Wiley, Skepta himself – into chart-friendly pop stars. After a musical identity crisis, the sound and artists re-set, shrugged off their creative flip flopping and returned to what made them so exciting to begin with – two turntables and a microphone. It’s a decision that has reaped ongoing rewards. Not only has Skepta and his latest album Konnichiwa, featuring the ace Shut up and That’s Not Me, won the 2016 Mercury prize ahead of post-humous favourite David Bowie, but he’s helped give grime a footing on the global stage. Its aural grit has even touched mega stars, Kanye West and Drake. When the former chose to show off his confrontational sound at the BRIT Awards in 2015, he called on the services of Skepta and his grime cohorts to help. After this year’s BRITs Ca- nadian rapper Drak gave up celebrity hobnobbing to join grime collective Section Boyz on stage at Village Underground.

With grime enjoying such unprecedented success, it seems Tottenham has played a huge role as a breeding ground for its stars. Saquib B, Social Media Manager and A&R, at grime website GRM Daily agrees, stating there is ‘something in the water’ in Tottenham. He says: ‘The likes of Skepta, Wretch and Chip have laid the foundations and I guess, they’ve made the young- sters from Tottenham believe anything is possible, handed them the baton and they’ve just ran with it.’ Saquib cites new Tottenham artists Avelino and Abra Cadabra as ones to look out for in the future. Like JME and Skepta, these two young word-smiths have both shown an innate ability to marry the tougher elements of grime with lyrical dexterity, an uncompromising flow and creative craft that makes them stand out. ‘The ability to actually make a SONG is the difference,’ Saquib explains. ‘A lot of people can just rap and that’s cool but if you listen to tunes like Abra Cadabra’s Robbery and Avelin-o’s On A Roll, these guys can actually make songs which you want to listen to when driving or in the club – for me that’s the key.’ While these acts are Tottenham’s future, Skepta has gone to greater efforts to ensure his ends are not forgotten. While his next London headline show takes place at Alexandra Palace, he’s also behind a new Haringey initiative aimed at giving local talent a helping hand.

“ They’ve made the youngsters from Tottenham believe anything is possible ”

The Levi’s brand has teamed up with Skepta to create a music space at Haringey Shed. Students are spending time with Skepta and a host of music experts to learn recording, lighting design, sound production and even how to build social media presence as an artist. Skepta tutored participants, collaborating with them to create a track to be performed in November at the Victoria & Albert Museum during its Revolutions Weekender. Executive director of Haringey Shed, Jim Shepley says: ‘All of our work is about changing young people lives and giving them chances, so when we were asked to be part of the music project we were delight- ed [...] projects like this can be the stepping stone for future careers in the music industry.’ It’s testament to Skepta that he shows off such humility to water these Tottenham roots. But it’s all over his album – on Konnichiwa’s title track Skepta rhymes ‘Man shuts down Wireless, then I walks home in the rain’, making no bones of his love for the place that birthed him. While he’s now rubbing shoulders with the likes of Pharrell and Kanye, there’s a humanity that his US counterparts have forgotten. Thanks to him, if there’s any truck in the age old adage ‘you reap what you sow’, then the future for Tottenham’s next generation of grime heroes is looking rosy.

Skepta’s next gig 2nd December 2016, Alexandra Palace
W helloskepta.com

2016 has been the year UK grime went overground. But where does the scene’s next generation of talent lie?

Made in the manor
LISTINGS

Upcoming

Ska/Dubstep Night
Friday 18th November 7pm – 3am
T Chances, 399 High Road N17 6QN
A night of ska and dubstep with an unforgetable line-up: Citizen Fish and AOS$ with supporting bands, Addictive Philosophy, Paul Carter, Sophie Sparham, EasyBread, Dub Brighters, Flak, The Vegetative Collective
T Chances have a Facebook event page

Creativity@Change
8-16 November
Bernie Arts Centre, Town Hall Approach Road, London N15 4RX
Artists will be exploring social and political issues of the refugee crisis through the use of Pop Art. The exhibition is in support of ActionAid UK. Private view and film screening 18th November (£3 + booking fee).
Free public viewing
Call 0208 365 5450

Tottenham Soundscapes II
11th November 1:45 – 2:45
All Hallows Church, Tottenham, Church lane N17 7AA
Tottenham Soundscapes are a local music project working to make classical music more accessible. After a successful event last August, they have another community concert for all this autumn. Expect world art music and contemporary classical.
Free
Tottenham Soundscapes II have a Facebook event page

Redemption Open Tap Room Dates
First Saturday of every month 11 – 4pm
Tottenham Artisan Market
17 Higham Road, Tottenham N17 6NU
After recently launching a tap room, Redemption will be open a number of dates leading up to the New Year. All the favourites will be available including Hotspur and Trinity. There will be bottles to take away and expect food from a selection of pop-ups.
Visit redemptionbrewing.co.uk
Call 020 8885 5227

The History of My Street
Tuesday 22 November, 2 – 4pm
Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane N17 6NU
Ever wondered about the history of your street? What it looked like before you were born? What was it home to? What brought people to live here and who built it brick by brick? Ever thought about the events, communities or stories of our local streets? Find out more and reminisce over photos and a cup of tea.
Free
Call 020 8808 8772

The Vintage and Designers’ Fair at the Castle
Saturday 26th November
Bruce Castle Museum N17 8NU
Shop early for Christmas for unique gifts from over 30 stalls – original vintage clothing, jewellery, handbags, collectables, prints, furniture, toys, kitchenalia and trunks, alongside handmade vintage-inspired gifts.
Vintage café open
Entrance £1.50
Call 020 8808 8772

Lordship Winter Fair
Saturday 10th December 12 – 5pm
Lordship Hub, LordshipRec, High Road, Tottenham N17 6NU
To stock up on presents, enjoy a good day out and get in the mood for Christmas head to the fair at the hub. Stalls, food, seasonal music and a Santa’s grotto.
Free
Visit lordshiphub.org.uk
Call 020 8885 5684

Tottenham Ploughman’s Winterfest
Sunday 11 December, 12 – 5pm
Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane N17 8NU
The annual Ploughman’s market is back and you will not be disappointed. Locally made food, arts, crafts, stalls, live music, theatre and art workshops for the kids – for the entire family.
Free
Visit Tottenhamploughman@yahoo.co.uk

Movie Quiz Night
17th November 7:30 – 21:30pm
The Engine Room, 109-110 Vickers Court, Waterside Way N17 9TF
If you are a film buff then what better way to test your knowledge than at a movie themed quiz night. Soup, snacks and soft drink will be available on the night or BVO.
Visit engineeroom.org.uk
Call 020 8885 549

Tottenham Community Choir
21st November, 6:30pm
Saint Benet Fink Church N17 6BH
On these cold autumnal nights, one of the best things to fill the evening is a spirited upbeat sing-along and Tottenham Community Choir have just the right event. The group with their lively groove will warm even the coldest heart with their uplifting line-up. Catch the choir at their next performance, which will feature a nod to bluegrass, jazz and 80s power pop!
Entry £8
Tickets on the door or in advance
Chair@tottenhamcommunitychoir.org

Haringey Voluntary and Community Sector Expo
Friday 25 November 11 – 4pm
Tottenham Town Hall, Town Hall Approach Road, London N17 4RY
For the first time, Haringey voluntary and community groups will come together and expose their hard work and achievements across the borough. There will be a mix of activities, discussions, stalls and awards to recognise achievements.
Free
Visit 020 8442 7640,
Visit bridgerenewaltrust.org.uk

Donation Based Yoga
Mondays 7pm – 8pm
Miller Memorial Methodist Church, The Avenue N17 6TG
Join a general multi-style yoga class. All levels welcome.
Intermediate Hatha Flow: Thursdays from 7pm – 8pm at 124 Philip Lane, N15 4JL
Pregnancy: Saturdays from 10am-11am
Lordship Rec Eco Hub, Lordship Lane, N17 6TG
£5 donation
Call 07970 124 909
Email Oliviafesty@gmail.com

Live Jazz and Blues
11 November at 8pm – 11pm
Antwerp Arms 169-170 Church Road, London N17 8AS
Errol Linton and his full band will play at Antwerp Arms in November. This three times British Best Harmonica Player of the year is known for drawing crowds with everything from reggae, blues, jazz and big classic covers.
Call 0208 216 9289

Tottenham Community Press Editorial Meeting
Do you have a idea for a local story? Do you like to take pictures? Do you like to work with a team for a community goal? If any of these apply to you please come along to our next editorial meeting. We are keen to meet you and find out how to make this paper better.
16th November 6:30pm
Garden House café, 410 High Rd N17 9JB
Visit Tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk
Email tcp@socialspider.com

Next issue listings
To list your community event in January/February 2017 issue of the Tottenham Community Press please email the name of the event, the date and time, the full address, a short description of the event, cost of entry and any contact details to tcp@socialspider.com.
The deadline for listings in the January/February 2017 edition is 12 noon on 9th December.

Want to advertise with Tottenham Community Press?
The Tottenham Community Press has a circulation of 10,000 copies per issue and an estimated readership of 30,000 people. The newspaper is distributed across the borough in community venues, pubs, cafes, libraries, doctors’ surgeries, shops and hairdressers; as well as outside the borough’s train and tube stations and door-to-door.
Call 020 8521 7956
Email tcpads@socialspider.com

The Hub
The Hub is a fantastic, community-run eco-building in the centre of Lordship Recreation Ground, next to a wildlife lake, an outdoor gym and a children’s playground. It houses the Hub Café, open daily from 11am-5pm, rooms for hire for private parties, events and away-days plus a wide variety of classes, courses and activities.
Check out our website: www.LordshipHub.org.uk
email: hello@LordshipHub.org.uk
Call 020 8885 5684
Come and visit us – enjoy a day out in the park.

Visit LordshipHub.org.uk
Free public viewing
Call 020 8885 5684
Visit LordshipHub.org.uk
Free
No Hotspur without Tottenham

By Alan Fisher

Walk down the High Road from White Hart Lane towards Bruce Grove, second lamppost on the right. Easily missed, but this is where in late summer 1882 a group of local schoolboys gathered around the flickering light to form the Hotspur.

Football's very different now. Tottenham Hotspur are a billion-pound global business with a worldwide following and building a state of the art stadium to match. But one thing hasn't changed. Having never played a home match more than 500 yards from the spot where the club was founded, the Spurs are here to stay. With a capacity of around 61,000, it's the second-biggest club ground in England after Old Trafford. More to the point, the chairman made sure it was bigger than Arsenal. It will have a hotel, food court and a skywalk, plus mixed housing and a 17,000 seat single tier 'end' behind the goal. This contemporary structure aims to feel like a proper football ground where fans are in touch with the players and generate an atmosphere.

This is important. Being a Spurs fan is not about sitting back in a padded seat, stuffing your face in a corporate trough and politely applauding. It's about intensity, commitment, getting behind your team, being involved. Football clubs make this hard these days. When the old ground was full, the Shelf terrace on the East Stand was the best place on earth, raucous, noisy and uplifting. Demolishing that terrace in 1988 to make way for executive boxes, planned in secret and executed despite supporter protest, began a process of ordinary fans feeling excluded and distant. Corporates brought money and indifference. Now, Tottenham are giving us a chance to be different from the others and the same as we've always been. Being in Tottenham is an integral part of supporters' heritage and identity even though the vast majority no longer live there. In 2010 the We Are N17 protest group campaigned to prevent the club moving to the Olympic site in Stratford. There's no Hotspur without Tottenham. However, the danger is that both fans and community will feel excluded. The club need the money to fund both a competitive squad and stadium costs estimated as high as £450m but unless Spurs cut some of the highest ticket prices in the country, the game is beyond the means of many. There's a feeling that the club are more interested in generating revenue, especially in America and the Far East, than they are in looking after ordinary fans and investing in the community.

Overall though, there's an air of distinct optimism among Spurs fans, frankly not something that could often be said of our mood during the past couple of decades. The team plays exciting, attacking football these days, and they can only get better. Spurs will play next season away from Tottenham, probably at Wembley, and White Hart Lane will be demolished in May next year, which will be tough to take. The new ground, no doubt named not after tradition but by a sponsor, opens for the start of the 2018-19 season. In staying in N17, Tottenham have respected history. The challenge is to make sure they keep supporters and community involved for the next 130 years. The fans' proud acknowledgement as the "Yid Army", and the fallout on the club from the Falklands War. It tells of the many firsts achieved by Spurs: as the first English club to play a black outfield player in division one, and in more recent times, as the first club to be listed on the London Stock Exchange.

With White Hart Lane soon to be replaced by a 61,200 capacity, £750 million structure, efforts to capture the rich history of Spurs' home have been surprisingly non-existent. Memory Lane hopes to fill that gap.

Memory Lane captures the moments that shaped local history

The film was produced by Spurs fans and Tottenham residents at Memory Lane Pictures, with input from young people at Exposure, a youth communications charity. All proceeds from the film will help fund Exposure's work across north London.

By Shakira Dyer

Announcing the release of Memory Lane, a feature-length documentary charting the rich history of a London landmark

Memory Lane (2016) explores the legacy of the stadium at White Hart Lane, the spiritual home of Tottenham Hotspur, and explores the world-famous football club's rise to fame – as seen, for the very first time, from the perspective of the fans.

The story of Spurs' home not only underscores the staunch loyalty inspired by the club and the fans' role in initiating – and defending to this day – many of its traditions. It also highlights how Tottenham itself has evolved over the centuries: from rural backwater to industrial suburb, from a hub for immigrants to the unsettled years of the 1980s.

Through interviews with local historians, die-hard supporters and ex-players, evocative archive photographs and rare, unseen colour footage, Memory Lane captures the moments that shaped local history, such as the tearing down of the Nazi flag from the stadium in 1935, the fans' proud acknowledgement as the "Yid Army", and the fallout on the club from the Falklands War. It tells of the many firsts achieved by Spurs: as the first English club to play a black outfield player in division one, and in more recent times, as the first club to be listed on the London Stock Exchange.

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For more information, images from the film or introductions to interviewees, please contact memorylanefilms@gmail.com.

You can also follow us on Twitter and read more about the film here:

W thefightingcock.co.uk/2016/05/memory-lane-the-world-famous-home-of-the-spurs-story/

Watch the trailer here:

W youtube.com/ watch?v=IWq47HGdCIw