


Issue 1

Do Well and Doubt Not

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A Fanzine For Tottenham





Do Well and Doubt Not is a fanzine about Tottenham, in the words of the people that live here. The name comes from the discarded town motto, displayed for all to see on a coat of arms in the old Town Hall.

Tottenham is an area of London that has had more than its fair share of headlines over the years. A lot of people just don't know the good things about it. The fanzine is here to start a wider conversation about the positives of Tottenham, and to challenge the bad. It's also just the beginning; there are many more people we simply couldn't fit in this time.

The interviews in this fanzine are taken directly from conversations with people that live and work in the area, the people that know it best. Sometimes these conversations were recorded during walks through the area; sometimes we journeyed through Tottenham metaphorically, with the kettle on, sheltering from the rain outside.

Shortly after the riots of 2011 there was a piece written by Kieran Long (in the Evening Standard) that stated "now is the time for a new approach to the city that doesn't use the euphemisms of regeneration, but deals with the city in its dirty reality." Do Well and Doubt Not is an attempt to start this dialogue, to question and to inquire.

Cities are complex, frustrating, and compelling; they are things of beauty. Tottenham is the same in microcosm. This fanzine is an opportunity to tell another story, one that questions stereotypes rather than confirms them.



Featuring:

Gabriel
Chris
Florence
Clasford
Nicky
Leyla
Stephanie
Moaz

Do Well and Doubt Not

Featuring:

Paul
Michael
Penny
Berkeley
Duvan
Monique
Deniz
Janet

A Fanzine For Tottenham



Chris Hall is the founder of London Boxing Academy and Footsteps Football Academy based in Northumberland Park.

"I founded the London Boxing Academy in 1999, and if someone had told me that I would be this heavily involved in education, I'd have thought you were bonkers. What happened was a lady called Christina Cotterill, who I think was a social worker, came in and said we should really broaden our delivery, because we'd really affected these two kids we were working with in a positive way. So that set me thinking about what we could do, and that led us to where we are."

"A lot of the people here come from claustrophobic estates, we get a lot of emotional stuff here. A lot of the work that we do is not just about developing football skills, it's also not just about education and GCSEs, it's about developing the students as people, as happy successful people."

"I think the biggest problem, and it's not rocket science, is that since the original Tottenham riots, in some ways not much has changed. If you're a resident, especially if you're a young black man, it's very difficult. To be fair a lot of the problems they face are caused by themselves. But there are all sorts of issues like housing issues, societal issues, that they face."

"When you're 16, 17, 18 and black, and you are in Tottenham, the future's not that bright sometimes, many times. It's very difficult for them. Hope is not the right word, your expectations shouldn't be anything to do with hope. It's very difficult in areas like Tottenham, and I really don't believe those issues have been addressed, not in the last 30 years. There's a lot of disaffected youth in this area who don't think and behave and act like mainstream society, because their lives and expectations for the future don't relate to mainstream society. And it's been allowed by successive governments to escalate, so they face a difficult future."

"There's a lot of other people in organisations that I know of that have their own agendas, whether it's money, or status or profile, and it's quite sad because the losers there are the students. I see the goodness in all of [the students] – that doesn't mean I condone some of the things they do, or accept it, but I do empathise with the difficulties they've experienced that I've never had to. I don't like to portray them as victims because they make their own choices, but where you grow up, and how you grow up, will affect the kind of person that you are."

"One of the things I'm really happy with is that all of the stuff that we've done has been built, and been achieved, on the fact that we're based on good things, a good ethos. Largely, we do what we do just because we can."

Duvan Villa is a business owner (and talented singer) in the indoor market at the old Wards Corner department store in Seven Sisters.

"I was 16 when I came from Colombia to Tottenham. I loved growing up here. I went back to Colombia, but I found myself really missing Tottenham. All my friends are here, most of my life has been focused here. But when I say that I come from Colombia, people have a bad perception of that. It's the same with Tottenham. So my main goal since I came to these markets is trying to change that image. I've been inside this market and in this community for 10 years now. If you think of Chinatown, we're trying to create Latin American town here."

"It's kind of a shame when you talk to someone about Tottenham, they say 'yeah, I don't really like going there'. But why? Why? It's beautiful here. The newspapers and TV seem to have a bad impression, and I'm trying to fight against that, and telling them, 'Tottenham is not what you think'. Every place has its problems, but people really have to understand that this is a nice place where you can meet real people with warm hearts."

"When I came from Colombia, I was lost here, I didn't speak any English. I met a lot of people that were helping me out, they were like 'hey, don't give up!'. The person I am now, it's not like I made it myself; I got help from other people, and those people were here, in Tottenham. Sometimes people ask me, 'don't you want to get out of Tottenham?' I say, 'why?' This is my place."

"I would really like the council to support us more because I know we have a lot of potential. They say 'we support the community' but they're not really supporting us. I feel comfortable saying this because I've been into these big fights since it started. Why would you just try to demolish a place instead of actually understanding what's going on, and who's living there? There's a lot of families that make their livings and support their families with what they do here. Not just Latin Americans, people from all over the world are here."

"So I want to do a special event outside to promote our market and our community, and that could fundraise for the court case we're going to have later this year. We need to be prepared, because I know we can win again, to demonstrate that we're not so small, that we are a community together here. This is Tottenham."

"When you have a problem, you don't just take the people out and then the problem is solved. You have to get inside the place and see what's creating the problem, and try to solve it in a better way."

Penny Potter runs T Chances, a music and arts venue on the High Road in Tottenham. T Chances provides people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds with a place to meet, socialise and organise community activities.

"I came here when I was a year old. I like Tottenham; I like the fact that it's got energy, it's got people. The only thing with Tottenham is it's broken, it needs to be repaired, and all it needs is people to come together and trust each other again. And that trust has been divided."

"[The media portrayal of Tottenham] does us an injustice. The media saying Tottenham have got the worst crime statistics, it's a load of rubbish. I've lived in Tottenham my whole life, I've never been mugged, I've never felt in danger. Tottenham, if you look at the area, it's a nice area. You've got loads of good projects going on as well. In Tottenham, everything's just left, it's hidden."

"To be honest, the riots were always in the equation. 'Oh, Tottenham, wasn't that where Broadwater riots were?' It was always that, but it was going gradually in the background. After the riots [last year], the whole world knows about us, but we're not looked on as other than a place where there's crime and scavengers. I think it can change back, it just needs people to trust each other again."

"The people have to stand up and say, 'we want this, we'll do it. We'll find a way of making the money, leave us alone. You're there to make the rules, you can't have anarchy, but it's our bit, it's ours.'"

"If you're from Tottenham, and you go outside Tottenham to get a job, and you go to Islington and you ask for a job, [they say] 'you must be lawless, you must be a criminal'. You have to change those views around. We have to say, 'no, we are good people'. We have to get together and show we're good people."

"People can change things, and all we do is give them the space to do it. If you bring enough people together, you can change the majority, you can change the council's ideas, because they're just looking at the votes."

"I've had meeting after meeting in here with people asking how they're going to help regenerate Tottenham - where's the money gone? It's not going into the centres, it's not going to the ordinary people. There are some good people in Tottenham, and they need help. The area wasn't that bad before, it just needs to bring people together."

"The riots happening made this place turn back into a black, dark hole. It said the people of Tottenham stood up, but that wasn't Tottenham out there, that wasn't Tottenham doing that. But we're being penalised for it."

"[Tottenham's] not negative, there's so much in it. And if you see the talent, that talent in Tottenham is incredible."

Moaz Nanjuwany is Chairman of Tottenham Traders Partnership. He is an optometrist and runs Hammonds Eye Practice on the High Road near Bruce Grove, and The Eye Practice at Seven Sisters.

"I think it's fate. My first job was in a practice up the High Road on the boundary of Tottenham and Edmonton and in fact my first night in the country when I came from Uganda was spent with a family in Tottenham before going on to boarding school. I then went to various schools, universities and worked in other practices around the country and guess what still ended up back in Tottenham! I've been here since 1981."

"It's multicultural - I feel like I'm in the centre of the world. When I started working here I had thoughts of emigrating, to Canada and all that, and I soon realised you know what, I am in the middle of the world here. That's why I've stayed here."

"I've seen a change in terms of communities. Haringey has always been amenable to people coming from other parts of the world - I'm very proud of that. To me, Tottenham is a vibrant, international, cosmopolitan community. I think we should make use of that and involve these people. The trouble is we don't go and outreach to these people to say 'what can you showcase of yourself in Tottenham?'"

"The traders have been here for a long time, so they have the experience, they know what the area needs. The problem we have sometimes is that new people come in trying to do things that they think are correct without asking us or getting us involved. If only we could all sit around a table and discuss what we think the area needs, maybe we can get more things done that are important to the residents and the shopkeepers. This is why our organisation was changed to a partnership some years back in order to work together."

"We seem to have this bureaucracy of 'you can't do that, you can't do this' instead of saying 'let's see how we can do it with you'. It kills enthusiasm. People are getting tired of trying."

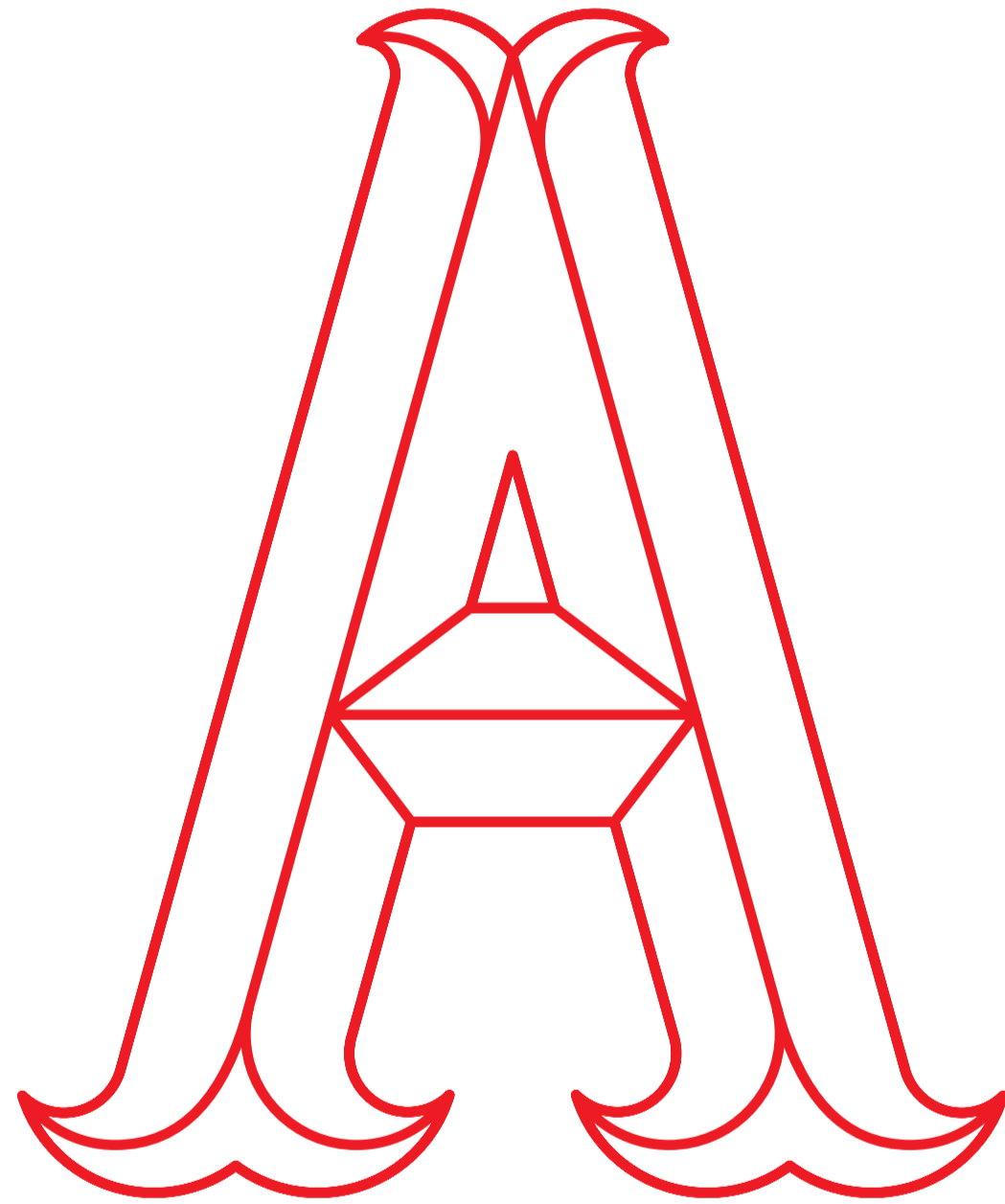
"All the money that comes in must be channeled to the people [of Tottenham]. We constantly keep getting people from the outside coming to tell us what we need, rather than asking the people here 'what do you think you need or we can do for you?' We've had so much money wasted. I feel if they gave Tottenham Traders Partnership some of that money we could transform this place overnight, because we know what the people want."

"For too long, the High Road has been a thoroughfare to the West End. We forget there are communities along the way."

A: (Ales & Lagers) The Ship

LTD: O'Meara Camping LTD

Do Well and Doubt Not



A Fanzine For Tottenham

Nicky Price is the chairman of Tottenham Carnival, and a small business owner in the area. He's also on the committee of the Tottenham Traders Partnership.

"I've been in Haringey ever since I was nine; I was brought up in Wood Green. And my first real businesses were based in Green Lanes. I've lived in and out of Tottenham all my life."

"People who do come to Tottenham, they may have preconceptions. But once they get here, they quickly realise what a very rich area it is – architecturally, culturally, and the people. Because they're very warm, they're very friendly. Here, we work in harmony. For me, that's what excites me, it's what interests me. I like to experience what those people can offer me in what they are, not just their culture – it's everything about people."

"Tottenham's a very interesting place to be. And it's got its faults. I want to see Haringey, and especially Tottenham, develop. I don't want to push people out, I just want to bring some people in. We just don't want to be a ghetto. We don't want to be known as a ghetto."

"I have some customers who won't come to Tottenham because they think their car's going to get broken into; you're going to get mugged is the perception that you get from outside. The sort of things you used to hear about Brixton. But the truth is that there's often less crime here than in some of the other areas."

"I was pleasantly surprised that young youths, who we think are desperate and this and that, are saying, 'I love Tottenham', that there are a lot of good things about Tottenham. And I'm thinking, well wouldn't you rather be somewhere else, and they say, 'no, this is my home. This is where I live and belong.' People have got an ownership of the area and they care about it."

"If I want to show off Tottenham and say, 'look what a glorious place it is', I'd take them to Bruce Castle Park. I'd certainly also take them down to the Lock, because there's a lot of things you can do along the river, there's some nice walks. But I would also take them into places like where I call the Latin Quarter, the market up the road, it's got a nice atmosphere. [The] most important thing is just walking out of the different restaurants and enjoying the people. Because right now, that's our biggest asset, the people."

"We need support and help and we are grateful, but too often people are sent to support Tottenham, and spend a lot of time learning about our needs; they make assumptions and spend money in our name. What we need is that people listen to the people here. Because the biggest cost is always in teaching someone what you need, when you already know what you need."

"Two words to describe Tottenham? Diverse and united."

Paul O'Connell is the co-founder of Flourish Craft Bakery in Tottenham. They supply artisan breads to top hotels and restaurants across London.

"We started here 11 years ago; this was our first premises. We started off with just myself and my sister. For the first year we didn't have a day off. Everybody liked what we were doing, so it didn't take long for us to grow, just through word of mouth. Now we have over 40 staff."

"We only have one customer in Tottenham. We were really pleased when they came on board because you could see Tottenham was beginning to change. It definitely has changed since I've been here. About five years ago I could see a big enough improvement for me to move into the area; I felt encouraged by the changes that had happened. I could envisage ourselves opening a cafe here. But in the end I moved out because I couldn't see enough happening soon enough."

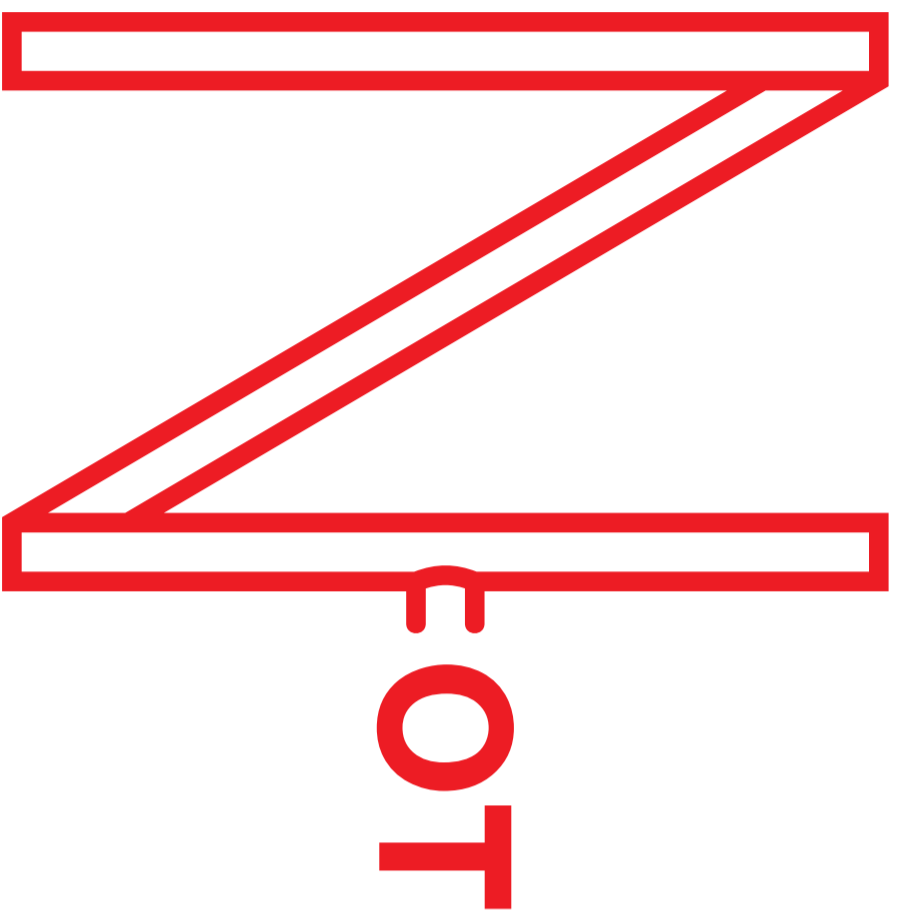
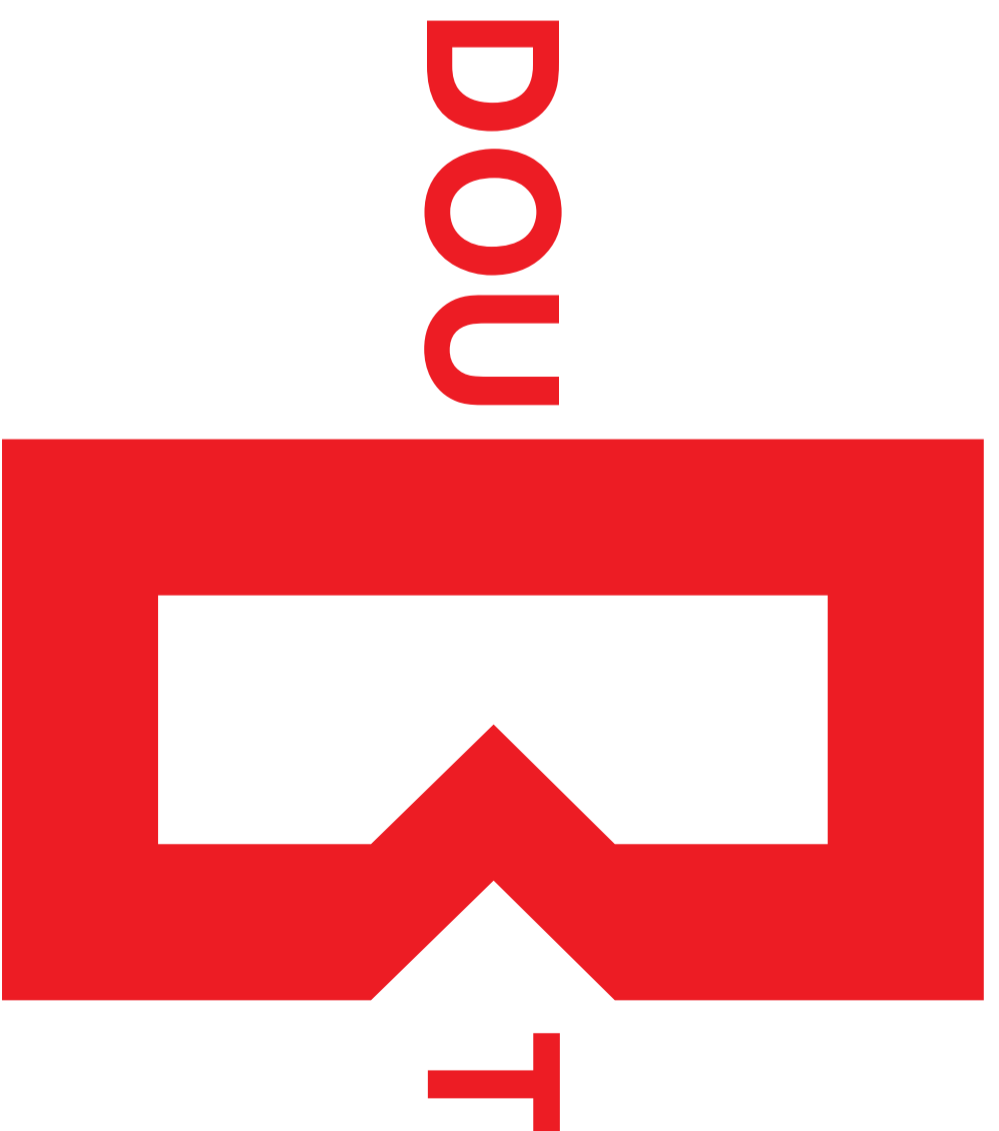
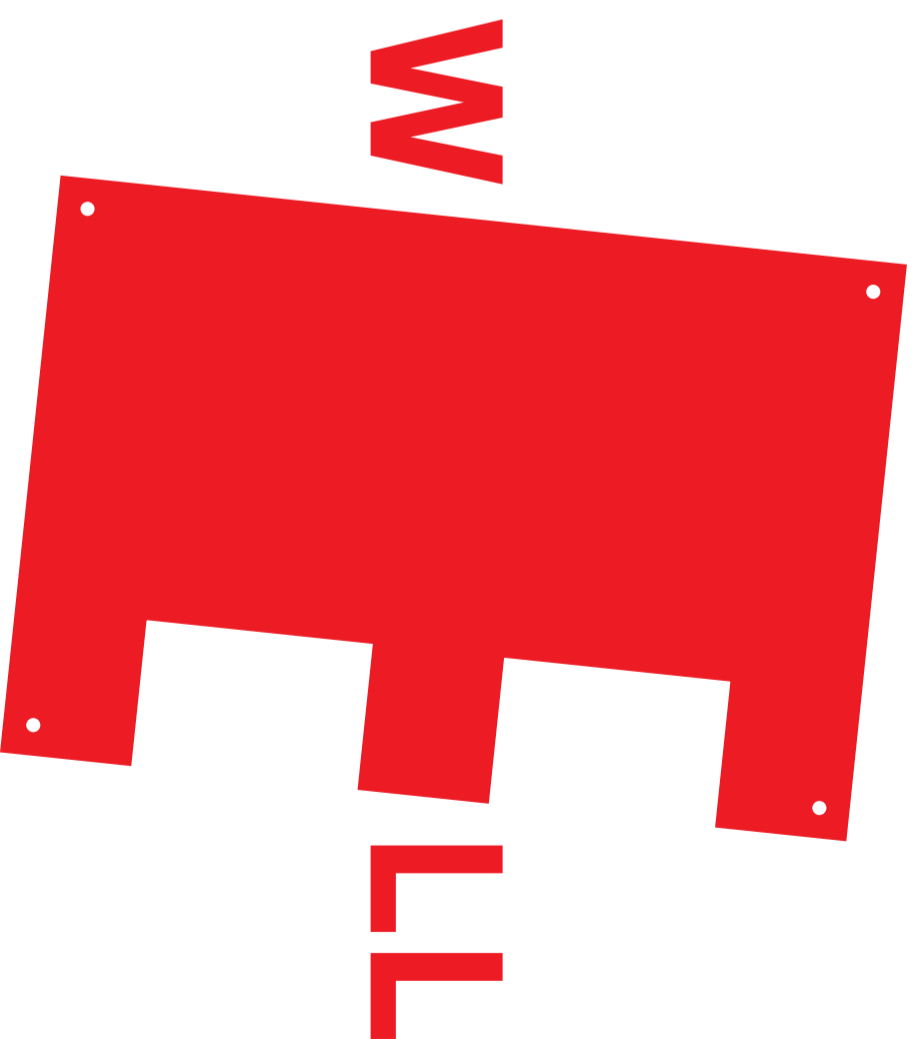
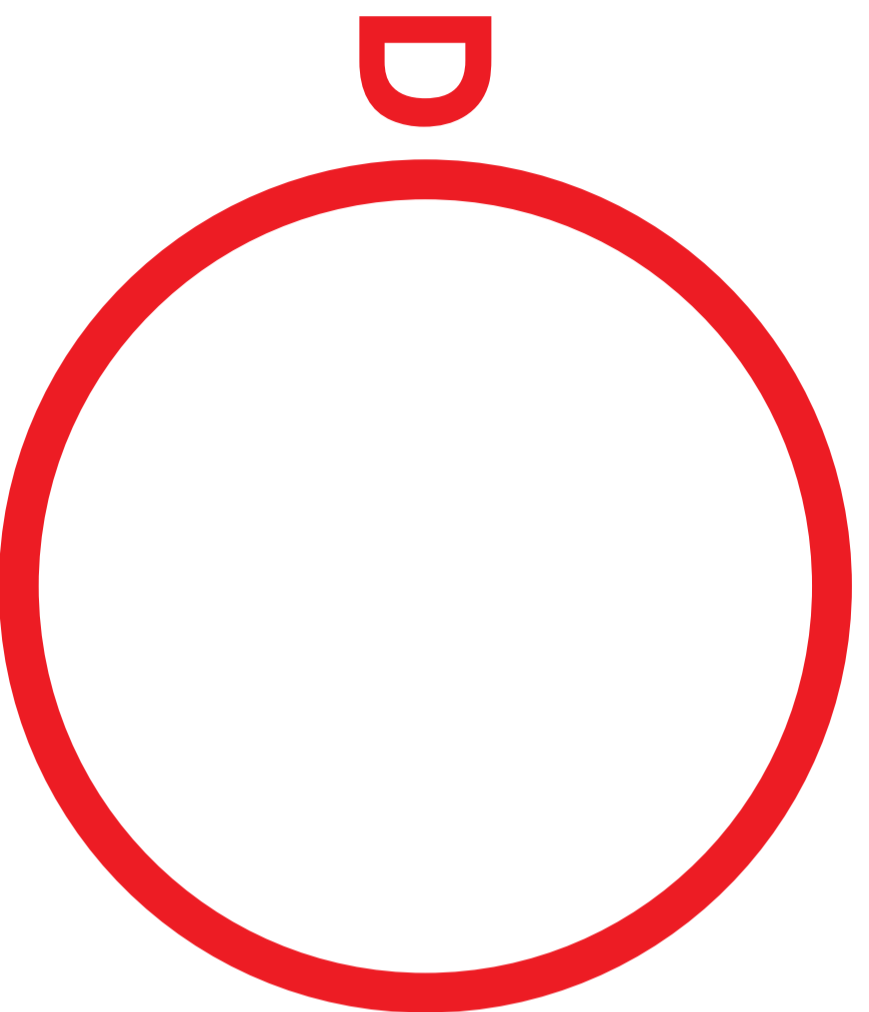
"Five years ago I was involved in the regeneration; I was part of the City Growth committee. I felt there was too much talk and not enough action. We were trying to entice people in, a bit like Borough Market has done. It can be done, but what you need to start off with is a central hub to pull everyone else in together. If you've got one nice business in spot and another somewhere else, they don't get noticed. There's none of this hanging out after work, where there's a reason to socialise. There's nowhere for the community to meet. People want a nice environment to live in."

"There's a lot of preconceived ideas that people make about the area based on what people read in the tabloids, but it's the same as what happened in Brixton. But then it all started to become fashionable, because there was a small influx of people with different ideas, new cafes, new restaurants. All it takes is a little spark. That's all it takes, one street, and then it spreads. You look at Islington, Stoke Newington, it started off with one street that drew people to it. That's what it needs and that's what it hasn't got. There are those people here, it's just getting everybody together."

"For me it's got to start right from the top, with the council leading the way. They need to set the example right from the beginning. At the moment they're not very supportive of the area, there isn't enough pride. My opinion is that there's too much focus on business and not enough on community. But businesses are run by people. If they want to encourage business, rent out the empty units they have, like in this building – rent free periods for a year, two years. Get business in that way. There's too much of this polishing on the outside. It's got to be something that will lift the spirit of the area; we need something to bring the community together."

Do Well and Doubt Not

A Fanzine For Tottenham



- O: The Eye Pod
- E: Millennium Laundrette Etc
- A: Caribbean Tasties
- B: B&U
- N: The NRC Sculpture

Clasford Stirling MBE is a youth worker based on Broadwater Farm. He also runs the Broadwater United football team and coaching programme. Monique Knight is a Northumberland Park resident who runs Supamums, a service that supports mothers to gain the skills and confidence to return to employment.

Clasford: "What is a Supamum?"

Monique: "It's just a mum who's trying to do her best. It doesn't necessarily have to be the ones that are working and all that, it's just a mum who always tries to hold a family together, hold a job down - keep everything going and juggle all the duties."

C: "It's a good phrase, and what I like about the phrase is it calls on women to be active, and do a lot more stuff because what I find now, which has been happening over a period of years now, is that the mums are doing everything. I don't know where the dads are, whether it's work or whatever, activities that they choose to do. So it makes you wonder - what's happened to the men?"

M: "Something says to me that in the next 10 years, something will change. Not immediately. But I think everybody's so enthusiastic about changing things that some change will come, but it's going to take time. And I think, in the next 10 years, you'll see the results of that."

C: "I hope so. I don't like using the terms 'culture' and 'black and white', but I think it's affecting, and it's so apparent that it's affecting the young black children in Haringey and Tottenham. Because whatever the frustration is, they don't see their fathers or older brothers, cousins, doing anything."

C: "I make the point now that the children have to grow up quickly, because there isn't anyone else helping them. We've become this kind of non-caring society where we're in a super highway lane where we have to get this and that done. There isn't time for that emotional time with the kids. That's not just one or two children; that's all children that that's affecting. Because there's so much disillusionment with the system, the kids are learning from the kids out there and they're all disillusioned, so nobody wants to do anything. They don't want to learn."

C: "There is this fast approach to how they earn money, and more often than not, it's drugs, or everybody wants to do music; there can only be one star! But what does the system do? Let's try and give them music! Put some other stuff there. So at the moment in Haringey, if you're music or football, you stand a little chance. If you want to do anything else, you stand no chance. The options make it so easy to go into crime. I'm just upset that the system is so slow in helping because there is an amount of money that could go in for community development and youth development, and I don't think it's spent the right way."

M: "Growing up in Haringey, you've got to be tough. There needs to be some strong men who are role models and can actually help young men to be strong and good role models too. Support must be tailored towards them."

M: "I think it is the time now for community groups to get stronger. I think we have more of a voice now because they realise that we are the only ones who can actually make a difference and really engage and really do it effectively. So I think they are giving community groups more power, but I think we have to argue more."

M: "Do you find that the residents use the facilities, like you've got a neighbourhood office, are they accessing it?"

C: "Yeah! We had to fight for that. This was built by the community. The biggest battle we had was against the council who said we couldn't build it, and we built it. And we built it on time. We did our own research to find out all the skills that were in the community because, when you live on an estate, people seem to think you're down and out, but we even had doctors over here, we had computer technicians, but unemployed. We tried to get people involved, which was the hardest part, trying to tell people that they could make a difference in their community."

C: "It taught me a lot, because there are people who go to these meetings who make decisions that govern your life in the area that you live. And it took them five years to do it, but we eventually got the community centre, and little by little, as you can see, the estate changed. The community painted the whole estate - every contract on here, the community worked on it. It seemed like we were being revolutionary, but when you think of it, it was common sense, then they started to adapt that around the country. So for Broadwater, it worked."

C: "I think, even with its problems, Tottenham is a welcoming environment, because there are other boroughs that are very racially unintegrated and very one sided in terms of how diverse the culture is. With Tottenham, you have a very global culture."

M: "If you look at kids around here, even when I was going to school, everybody kind of stuck to their own groups. But now, even though they're still doing bad things on the street, they're together - white, black, Asian, everybody hangs around together. It's like it's completely dissolved, this barrier line. They've grown up together, they know words from each other's languages. It's completely changed since I was even a teenager here."

C: "Don't you find, culturally, it's more harmonious? I've been to other areas, and it just doesn't seem the same. When you come to Tottenham, there is this kind of 'home' feeling with everybody."

M: "I've moved to different areas before. But I feel at home here because I know people, I feel safe here even though it seems many people see Tottenham as a bad area to live. I feel safe here, and I have a place in the community."

Gabriel Alozie is an artist and events organiser. Florence Codjoe works at Exposure Organisation, a youth media charity based in Haringey.

Florence: "Exposure is a youth media charity free to young people: we have an office, so young people come along to Exposure to gain skills in journalism, graphic design and video work. It's all free, and we're open from 10am Monday - Friday."

"A lot of the young people write for Exposure, and readers of the magazine think the magazine is specifically about social issues, and we're saying no, this is what the young people want to write. We try to encourage the young people to write about everything that goes on in their life be it positive or negative. If they want to write about knife crime for instance, we say think about a different angle, because it's been written about so many times. What more can you say that the media hasn't explored?"

Gabriel: "If you go to the youth clubs, you'll see a lot of the youth workers that inspired me to do good stuff, that had a bit more time for me than school teachers. I got suspended a few times for just stupid things, people could have just taken the time to find out what was wrong, and what was right with me. But the youth workers at No. 10 [youth centre in Bruce Grove], they did that - people like Peter, Paulette, Lady Mary, Monica, Marlene, Patrick, there's so many. Berkeley, Devon, they were really cool. But I don't think there are any youth clubs left now - they closed them down."

"There isn't anything to tie everyone together in Haringey. There's this whole 'I Love Tottenham' campaign, but how do you know what people are loving about the community? We need a directory of all these things; a site that everyone could go to that people growing up in Tottenham can see and go wow."

Florence

Do Well and Doubt Not

Deniz Ozbolot is part of the management committee that run DayMer, the Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre in Bruce Grove.

"I've been here about five or six years, since we opened this centre. I live in Palmers Green, not very far from here. Here we have cultural and arts activities. They come, they learn folk dance, drumming, after school lessons. We try to help people with their education, to be a better person, for the community, for themselves, for their family. There's a language problem for all foreign communities. We want to unite, whether we be Turkish, English or African. After the language differences and culture differences between us, at the end of it, we are all human."

"The cuts put people in difficult positions. This is a poor area, and, I think, one of the poorest areas in London. People suffering are always coming to get information, benefits, housing benefits especially. This is very important. Maybe for rich areas, maybe they don't mind, but Tottenham is a really poor area, and high unemployment."

"You have to do more services. They shut all the youth centres. There's no places. About 75% of the youth centres have been shut - where are these people going to go?"

"It's not easy to be friends with English people. My neighbour is English, I only say 'hello' and 'how are you?', that's it. But in Turkey, they go to their neighbour's house, they visit. You go round and make sure they're happy. Even if you are happy, you share your happiness with someone else."

"[People from outside] don't think Tottenham is a good place for them, because of the violence, they don't feel safe. It's not fair, but if your name becomes bad, you cannot change easily."

"We're a Turkish community, but we don't see only Turkish people as important. We try to work for all communities, and if you do something nice, this is for Tottenham and for all communities."

A Fanzine For Tottenham

1923: The Regency

K: Jack's Cafe

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1923

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Tottenham Typography

K

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Tottenham Typography

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Janet Cooke-Thompson is the Business Development Manager for Cooke Estates on the High Road in Tottenham.

"Years ago, Tottenham used to be a nice place to live. My dad always wanted to live in Tottenham. Stoke Newington was the place, he'd say, where we shouldn't go. Everything was boarded up."

"[People need to] invest in the area, give people a reason to come to Tottenham. It generally needs tarting up, but no one can really afford it. Because of the riots, everybody's lost business. We had rate relief for six months, not long enough, considering they're saying it's going to take Tottenham about three years to rebuild again."

"Outsiders might think, because of what's been in the press, that you can't walk along the street because you'll get robbed. It isn't like that - I've been walking up and down this street and I've not been murdered yet! I don't think it's as bad as people think it is. There's a lot of people who have been here for years, that love Tottenham."

"I don't think [the riots] were all just about crime. It could have been political, but they weren't aware that what they were doing was political. When you're that young, you're not really that involved in politics. But life is politics, and you don't know you're living it. There was an element of hysteria and excitement, I likened it to when Lady Diana died. We all cried, but we didn't know her personally. It gave everybody the opportunity to cry, but inside, they were probably crying about their own lives."

"The world doesn't offer much to young people now. It offers all this education, but there's nothing at the end of it for them. It's a bit of a con for them, and I think they're starting to recognise that. I don't think that three quarters of them were criminals. It's hard, unless mum and dad have got a couple of quid. But for a lot of people, it's a dead end road."

"If you take away a lot of the roughness, there's some quaint little buildings that give it a 'villagey' feel. I think [Tottenham's personality] could be made on those lines. It's got to be welcoming, you've got to have something for people to come here for."

"I don't like the 'I Love Tottenham' stuff. It's almost like they're trying to convince people. Why would you love Tottenham? Give us something to love first! I think it's all too strong."

"I like the memory that my dad had of Tottenham, which is a strange thing. My dad always wanted to live in Tottenham because it was always really nice. I'm not happy with the status it's got now. What I have seen is a lot of people trying to work to make it better. Most of the traders that I've come in contact with, they have been here a long time. None of them want to move, so there must be something..."

Stephanie Pinnock is a Tottenham resident who is setting up the Academy of Entrepreneurship and Sporting Excellence (AESE). They have been approved to open a new free school in Tottenham in partnership with the Harris Federation.

"My journey to applying to set up a free school started when I began researching schools in Tottenham in preparation for my youngest child to start school in September 2010. I have older children at various stages of their education, and I am well aware of some of the difficulties families face with their children's education. I therefore took a very close look at schools in Tottenham. On researching the statistics online I found that whilst most primary schools in Tottenham are performing on a par with similar schools in Haringey, our secondary schools are not faring as well as secondary schools in other areas of Haringey. I also found that the low attainment levels of some schools date as far back as the early 1980's and the issues that families faced back then are much the same as the ones we are facing today, low levels of attainment and a lack of preparation for employment."

"I decided then and there to do something about education in my area and I spoke to some of my colleagues to ask them to come together to open a new school. Shortly after these discussions took place Michael Gove announced his proposals for free schools and we recognised this as the opportunity we needed to get personally involved and set up our own free school."

"Some of the issues we wish to address are higher levels of attainment and preparation for further studies and employment. Our school will cater for 4-19 year olds and will specialise in entrepreneurship, business and sporting excellence. In addition to teaching the national curriculum we will also teach how the stock market works, the legal and political systems and entrepreneurial skills to prepare our students for self-employment. We will focus on deportment and elocution in addition to other interview preparation techniques and we will encourage our students to undertake more work placements than usual and work very closely with a wide range of businesses as this will allow our students to see and hear first-hand how businesses work."

"We feel that today's moral standards currently fall far short of our expectations, therefore we will also teach our students about social responsibility. We will also encourage our students to give back via a 'timebank', teaching them how to become responsible citizens."

"When it comes to our children's education, one generation of students have already been failed. This is about our children's futures, we can't afford to play around, we have to get serious. I believe that things can change, and I am all about making changes happen. I'm very privileged to have brought together a wonderful group of likeminded people who have the skills and experience to improve our children's education. We invite all likeminded families in Tottenham to join us on our journey."

Michael Polledri MBE is the Chairman of Lee Valley Estates who are the developers behind Hale Village near Tottenham Hale.

"What the area desperately needs is inward investment, and with inward investment comes opportunity, and with opportunity comes the ability for young people to get jobs. And one of the issues in the area, particularly from some postcodes, is that our young people just aren't able to access work. The challenge is how we change that."

"We take young people in the area and we try and advantage them, rather than disadvantage them. My view then is that local jobs don't necessarily mean jobs locally. We've got a great transport hub here, local jobs really means our young people going out and getting jobs all over London, all over the UK nationally, and internationally."

"We have 1,250 students who live next door, it's a new community. We've got to make sure that they don't just take their spend – and they have enormous spending power – out of the borough. [So they don't just think] it's a great place, 'I can easily get to King's Cross, to Upper Street where I want to be, and I can easily get to Hoxton or wherever...' The idea is that let's keep them here, let's keep their spend here."

"The area needs to be safe. The area needs to be attractive. The retail offer needs to be better than it is. And that is all about inward investment."

"We've got some wonderful buildings in the area. We've got the Tottenham Town Hall – which is the most amazing building. Next to that is the Bernie Grant Centre, next to that is the library and the leisure centre. There are all sorts of brilliant facilities. The Green itself could be a brilliant facility."

"What I don't particularly want is yet another masterplan. We've got enough masterplans to wallpaper Tottenham. We'd like to see some action, and by that I mean real action and real activity."

Do Well and Doubt Not

Michael

Berkeley Gardener is a youth worker who has worked with young people in Tottenham for many years, including at the Bruce Grove Youth Centre, No. 10.

"I've been involved with the Bruce Grove Youth Centre, No. 10, for a long time. What the borough had was a centre of excellence. People from other projects all around, Craig Park from Waltham Forest, came to learn from our centre. It was a state of the art centre. The young people knew that – that's why they wanted to fight to keep it. It had a covenant on it designating it for use by the community and young people; that's why they couldn't sell it off, so they closed it down."

"The fact that the community kept fighting and going back for it is why they're looking at reinstating it. That's something that the community wanted. People are really unhappy about it, young people, because they took that away from them, what have they got? If you give something like that back to the community at least it gives some sense that you're listening."

"People like Funmi Abari came through the centre. She was part of the Youth Parliament [and spoke at the House of Commons]. We talk about empowering young people, giving them a voice, all that – she went to the top! But when she came to the council to say that they don't think the youth service should be cut by 75%, they understand the need for cuts, but it wasn't a gradual thing, it was straight chop. Like that. You're out on your bum. Enfield didn't do it. Waltham Forest didn't do it. All these other boroughs didn't do it, but Haringey did. These other boroughs found some reserve, I'm sure we had some reserve."

"When you look at Funmi and those guys, what you notice is, they did everything by the book. They didn't demonstrate or hijack the civic centre with banners. They sat down. They got money to get a report written. They looked at the facts. They interviewed people, they made it evidence based. It was presented in a timely way. They looked at things they had not done, like the way the consultation process hadn't been correctly carried out, they looked at the fact that the impact assessment was missing. There was nothing on the effects of the cuts. They went to the meetings, they presented, they asked the councillors the correct questions... At no stage were they ever even treated, forget about as equals, they were never even treated fairly. 'We've got no money' – that was their answer. It was a politicians answer at every stage. All these buzz words. Everything was spread as thinly as possible just to keep things running."

"There's absolutely no justification for the 75% cut in youth services, even today. The youth services budget wasn't even that much in comparison, something like £6 million. And what has it cost since then?"

A Fanzine For Tottenham

Leyla Laksari runs Living Under One Sun, a healthy living, community leadership, and community allotment project based at East Hale Allotments down by the River Lea.

C: Bruce Grove Cosmetics

"I came to Tottenham 18 years ago and I raised my family here, so I owe Tottenham big time. My children have grown up being proud of Tottenham, and they're grateful to be in Tottenham. They thank me for being here, because from early on they knew the world around them as being made up of so many different things."

"Tottenham is beautiful, I wake up in the morning and I know this is the place I raise my children. And I've benefitted from it. So I come out and I see shining eyes of determination of somebody making a difference. I refuse to believe this is a place of victims; that this is a place that is at siege."

"Living Under One Sun is only part of this patchwork of beauty that is happening here. But we want to be a patch, we want to be connected. We want to be that big blanket that covers us all, and the colourfulness of it. It's a good place to come and invest and live. It has a lot to offer."

"All you have to do is make a difference in wherever you live or your neighbourhood. Take a site, be it in a school, a hospital, a community organisation. We help you turn that derelict land into a community space, a village square where people can meet."

"I think some time ago I heard somebody say activism is what I do and earns the rent I pay for being on this earth. There are political gaps here where we live and I've got to fill up those gaps with hopes."

"I don't believe in 'big society'. I don't, because when I go to Sainsbury's I still have to pay for my food."

"I love conflict, I think conflict is a wonderful concept, because within that there is such an energy around finding solutions. That is where our ethos is based. Somebody comes in and says 'why can't we do this?' and we ask three questions: what will it take? What will it take? What will it take? Usually we have the answer."

"Tottenham exists in a magnificent way. We're here. It's a myth that they're a hard to reach community, what does that mean? We live here. How hard is it to knock a door?"

"You need to believe in people. Change happens because respect is given."



Do Well and Doubt Not

A Fanzine For Tottenham



Do Well and Doubt Not

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This publication is made up of interviews with real people who live and work in Tottenham, with these texts published verbatim. Needless to say these views are the interviewees' own.

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