

CIVITAS TOTTENHAM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TOTTENHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

Let's stop this white elephant now

Matthew Bradby

We have recently found out that property developer Grainger has appealed against the Council's refusal of their planning application for the Wards Corner site. The appeal goes to the Planning Inspectorate, based in Bristol, but who have been fairly frequent visitors to Tottenham in recent years, when they have been called upon to decide other disputed planning cases.

In this case, as it is a major development, a Public Inquiry will be held. A Planning Inspector will hear the arguments of both sides in person, and do a site visit, as well as studying all the written evidence. The Inspector then goes away and makes a judgement. The process is rather court-like and technical, but much does depend on the views of local people. TCS committee members will attend the hearing to make a submission in person, which is an important way of conveying how seriously we take the planning battle.

However, the more TCS members and other supporters who write to the Planning Inspectorate in objection of the Grainger plans, the better. Here are some points we suggest that members can make:

- The Grainger development does not complement or improve on the historic character of the area, contravening the policies set out in the Tottenham High Road Conservation Area Appraisal. *"In accordance with the Council's UDP policies and planning guidance all future proposals for demolition of buildings that make a positive contribution to the Tottenham High Road Historic Corridor conservation areas will be resisted through the planning process. The High Road has suffered greatly from the*

demolition of many fine buildings of historic and architectural merit, and distinctive local landmarks have been lost. The visual coherence of much of the townscape has been significantly diminished as a direct result of this." (12.4, pg 96)

- The bulk and massing of the proposed development is completely out of keeping with both the surrounding areas and the structural capacity of the site.
- The design of the development runs counter to the character of the area and would irreparably damage the distinctiveness of the location. Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning For The Historic Environment (PPS5) states that *"local planning authorities should take into account the desirability of new developments making a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment. The consideration of design should include scale, height, massing, alignment, materials and use"* (HE7.5).
- As a result of failings in the Equality Impact Assessment produced by URS Scott Wilson on behalf of LBH the effect of the scheme on local people has not been properly considered and as such there is no evidence to suggest that the public benefit of the scheme will outweigh the negative outcomes of the proposed demolition.



PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY

Objections to the Planning Inspectorate must arrive there by **11 April** and please use the reference: **APP/Y5420/A/12/1269907/NWF**. You need to send **THREE copies of your letter**, addressed to The Planning Inspectorate, 3/14 Eagle, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN.

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Wards Corner has been part of Tottenham's heritage for over 100 years. Edwardian photographs show the splendid decorative street frontage of Wards Stores. The Ward family appear to have acquired their first house in this parade in 1901, and by 1909 owned the whole row. They constructed the purpose-built steel framed department store with its magnificent plate glass windows on the corner in 1909. The firm ceased trading forty years ago, in June 1972, but for many years the ground floor has been home to Seven Sisters Indoor Market.

There is no doubt that the street frontage, substantially altered, is much less attractive than Wards Stores had been in its Edwardian heyday. At some point, the idea was put forward that it would be a good idea to help regenerate Tottenham by pulling down the entire block and starting from scratch, perhaps inspired by other megaprojects in Wood Green. A juggernaut was started, a total demolition planning brief drawn up, a hugely rich developer (Grainger) chosen, and given generous public subsidy via bodies such as the now-defunct New Deal for Communities.

I still remember the meeting where Tottenham Civic Society members were invited to meet the architects and see the plans. In his presentation the architect marvelled that something like the 1909 former department store had survived to this day. He obviously admired the building, but his job was to pull it down. We looked at the plans, and it began to dawn on us that we were witnessing yet another heavy handed and monstrous attack on Tottenham's heritage. The architect was genuinely surprised (as they often seem to be) by our cool response to the plans, which gradually hardened into opposition over

the course of an hour. As we left the meeting it was obvious that we had a planning battle on our hands.

Local traders and residents formed the Wards Corner Community Coalition, which inflicted defeat after defeat on the developer, which was forced to revise its plans. However total obliteration of the existing buildings is still the aim of a rather battered Grainger plc, and that is totally unacceptable from a heritage point of view. It is also totally unacceptable from a social and economic point of view. This site should be sensitively restored to provide much needed affordable commercial space for local businesses.

TCS members may take comfort from the fact that the Council is now on our side, as it was the Council that rejected Grainger's latest application on the basis of the arguments given above. The fact is that the original planning brief is now completely out of date and does not meet the requirements of Tottenham's businesses or residents in today's economic climate. We need a new planning brief, which takes as its starting point the need to



An artistic impression of how Wards Corner could look

restore the existing streetscape. This is what has been done with such success in the Bruce Grove area in the past few years (the Wilson Building and Windsor Parade being fine examples). Forward, heritage-led, sustainable regeneration! Let's stop Grainger's grotesque white elephant now!

Wards Corner Community Coalition official objection:

<http://wardscorner.wikispaces.com/Official+objection+to+Grainger>

Further information on Wards Corner Community Coalition:

<http://wardscorner.wikispaces.com/>

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TCS Annual General Meeting

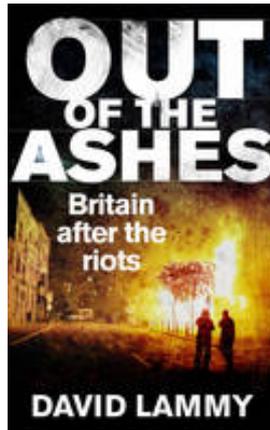
All members should have recently received their AGM paperwork by post. Just in case you didn't, or you are not a member, and wish to attend, our AGM will be held on 14th April from 2pm at:

Bruce Castle Museum
Lordship Lane
Tottenham
N17 8NU

Our speaker will be Anne Lippett, who is the London Borough of Haringey Project Director-Tottenham. There will be an opportunity for refreshments and to meet TCS members.

'Out of the Ashes: Britain after the riots' by David Lammy Review by Joyce Rosser

I was surprised by this book. I had always assumed that David Lammy was a New Labour clone without an idea in his head. This book shows I was wrong. It is part autobiography and part analysis of the problems of contemporary Britain.



David Lammy's parents came to Britain in the 1950s from what was then British Guiana. His father was a taxidermist (as he says "not a run-of-the-mill profession for a West Indian immigrant") and like most of his fellow immigrants was in employment until the 1980s. Unemployment had a devastating impact on individuals and communities such as Tottenham. The book is well written with many important insights such as the vital role of peer groups in secondary school performance. Don't get distracted by the press furore over smacking, read the book itself – you will be impressed.

Guardian Books, 2011, £9.99 (proceeds to charitable causes)

Work Experience at The Lancet August 2012-January 2013

The Lancet is offering a number of 2-week unpaid work experience programmes from August 2012-January 2013 inclusive. Successful applicants will be invited to The Lancet's London office to observe and participate in the work of the journal's editorial, production, and web departments. Please note that The Lancet is unable to reimburse expenses. Please send a covering letter, your CV, and preferred dates to niall.boyce@lancet.com before the 20th of April 2012.

'Policing Matters' - The Road to Recovery After the Riots Thursday 29th March 2012, 6.30pm

The Bernie Grant Trust invites you to the Bernie Grant Memorial Lecture: Speaker; David Gilbertson QPM, formerly Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police & HM Assistant Inspector of Constabulary David Gilbertson QPM, formerly one of Scotland Yard's most senior officers, delivers a powerful critique of modern policing, and argues that, over the last decade, the police have become increasingly alienated from the public they serve.

From 'bobbies on beats' to 'Stop and Search,' his compelling analysis of a crisis offers a way forward to police, policy makers and the community. A Panel Debate will follow.

This event is free but ticketed
Book your ticket now at
www.berniegrantcentre.co.uk
or call 0208 365 5450

Bernie Grant Arts Centre
Town Hall Approach Rd
N15 4RX
5 mins walk from Seven Sisters Tube

PO Box 68060 London N22 9GZ
Registered charity no. 1021451

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Tottenham Civic Society 2012 Events Programme

Exploring Tottenham's Heritage and Future

All the events are free. Unless otherwise stated booking is not required – just turn up. For further information about any event phone 020 8347 7684

Alexandra Palace to Bruce Castle: a walk across the old parish of Tottenham

11am Sunday 1st April

Walk leader: Joyce Rosser, Heritage & Conservation Officer, Haringey Federation of Residents Associations

This five mile walk starts at Alexandra Palace, goes through nine parks and seven conservation areas (Alexandra Park and Palace, Wood Green Common, Trinity Gardens, Noel Park, Tower Gardens, Bruce Castle, Tottenham Cemetery), takes in various listed buildings and ends at Bruce Castle Museum at about 1.00pm where light refreshments will be available. You might wish to bring a packed lunch.

Meet in front of the BBC TV Tower at Alexandra Palace, N22 7AY. W3 bus from Finsbury Park or Wood Green tube stations.

Tottenham High Road: Spurs & rebuilding after the riots

11am Sunday 22nd April

Tour leaders: TCS members

Over the past couple of years Tottenham High Road has been in the news. There was the argument about whether the Spurs redevelopment project would knock down lots of heritage buildings. Once this was resolved there was uncertainty about whether Spurs would be staying in Tottenham at all. Then in August the world saw pictures of High Road buildings on fire. This walk from White Hart Lane to Tottenham police station will enable people to see the amazing heritage wealth of the High Road, to see the work going on for the Spurs redevelopment and to hear about rebuilding plans for the buildings destroyed in the riots. The tour will last about an hour and a half with an optional visit afterwards to the Garden House Turkish restaurant for refreshments.

Meet in front of flats corner of William Street and White Hart Lane, N17 8DL (W3 bus stop for White Hart Lane Station).

Exploring the old railway line from Palace Gates to Seven Sisters

2pm Sunday 20th May

Walk leaders: Chris Barker and Judith Hanna

This walk explores the route of the 2¼ mile branch line of the Great Eastern Railway from Palace Gates station, the nearest it got to Alexandra Palace, to the junction with the still existing line at Seven Sisters. We'll see how current streets and boundaries follow the old line and the traces it has left, including bridges and embankments which can still be seen. Much of the track bed has been built over by the Shopping City and housing estates, but parts remain open space, including allotments at Mannock Road (with its wonderful display of irises) and Elmar Road. We hope to visit both and stop for tea at one of them.



Courtesy of Alan Swain from: http://tottenham-summerhillroad.com/early_railways_of_tottenham.htm

Meet outside the Gate pub on Station Road opposite Alexandra Palace station, N22 7SR. Buses W3 and 184 from Wood Green tube station pass the door. Finish: Seven Sisters station.

The Moselle: Haringey's River

11am Sunday 24th June

Walk leaders: Chris Barker, Joan Curtis and Lucy Roots (Haringey Friends of Parks Forum)
The Moselle flows from the Northern Heights in the extreme west of Haringey to the River Lee in the east. Haringey Friends of Parks Forum is publishing a guide to the seven-mile walk along the route from Queen's Wood in Highgate to Markfield Park in Tottenham. For much of the route the river is hidden in a culvert but it is commemorated in the names of streets and buildings. We will see the amazing changes underway at Lordship Rec where the river is being brought to the surface, see the Lesser

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Moselle and beautiful lake in Tottenham Cemetery and end up at Markfield Park with its famous Beam Engine (and café). Bring drink and snacks for the walk. People who don't want to do the entire walk can hop on a bus at various points.

Meet at the Lodge Café in Queen's Wood, N10 3JP (Highgate Wood bus stop on 43 and 143 bus routes, Highgate is nearest tube)

Outing to Epping Forest

3pm

Sunday 8th July

Tour leaders: Catherine Cavanagh (Epping Forest Open Spaces, City of London)

The new Epping Forest Visitor Centre and Exhibition opens in April. Next door is the Tudor Queen Elizabeth's

Hunting Lodge overlooking Chingford Plain and the newly refurbished tea rooms, Butler's Retreat, in a 19th century Essex barn (there is a similar weather boarded barn at 579a Tottenham High Road). There will be a tour of QEHL and plenty of time to look round the Visitor Centre and Exhibition. A short walk away are nice ponds and 400 year old pollarded oak trees with plenty of good picnicking opportunities for those who don't want to eat at the Butler's Retreat.

Meet at Epping Forest Visitor Centre - ten minute walk from Chingford station (by train take Victoria Line and change at Walthamstow Central or by 444 bus from Turnpike Lane or The Roundway). If anyone is interested in cycling from Tottenham let us know (020 8347 7684) and we'll organise a group.

For further information about Epping Forest visit:

http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/LGNL_Services/Environment_and_planning/Parks_and_open_spaces/Epping_Forest/

Architectural walk around Tottenham Green conservation area (this is an Open House event)
11am Sunday 23rd September



Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge, Epping Forest, Courtesy of Bob Good

Walk leaders: Matthew Bradby, Chair of Tottenham Civic Society, and other TCS members
External historical guided tour around the buildings of Tottenham Green, including C18 Georgian houses, C19 Jewish Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital and Holy Trinity Church, ancient High Cross Monument, old Swan pub, Edwardian Town Hall complex, recent housing developments, new Bernie Grant Arts Centre and recent Banksy mural. In this small area there are 17 national listed buildings and over 50 locally listed buildings. Tour will last up to two hours with optional visit afterwards to Garden House Turkish restaurant for refreshments.

Meet: outside Old Tottenham Town Hall, Town Hall Approach Road, N15 4RY. Nearest tube is Seven Sisters, numerous buses along the High Road.

Broadwater Farm Estate: a success story

11am Saturday 29th September

Tour leader: Sean Gardiner, Broadwater Farm Neighbourhood Officer

Contrary to press stories Broadwater Farm is a nice place to live. With over a thousand homes it was the biggest housing scheme of the new borough of Haringey and completed in 1973. But there were design problems and then the 1985 disturbances gave the estate a bad name. In the early 1990s major improvement works were carried out including demolition of walkways, landscaping and setting up concierge schemes. "Broadwater Farm...now thrives...Once again it is seen as a model public-housing project, but this time round, that seems genuinely to be the case" (Lynsey Hanley, Estates, 2007).

Meet at the Neighbourhood Office, 108c Gloucester Road, N17 6GZ. This is on the left hand side just down the slope of Gloucester Road from the junction with The Avenue.

Bruce Castle Museum currently has an exhibition on until mid-September featuring Broadwater Farm called 'Broadwater Farm: the story of a community 1967-2010'

Thank You

Since the AGM Papers were posted out, members have been renewing their membership by cheque or standing order which is lovely, thank you. Members who wish to pay in person can do so at the AGM on April 14th. This year we have introduced membership cards which will be sent out shortly.

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Review of "The Riots"

Joseph Nicholas

The Riots is a dramatisation by Gillian Slovo of the arson and looting in various English cities during the second week of August 2011, based on transcripts of interviews with those involved and using their words to construct a narrative of those events from a variety of perspectives -- community leader, rioter, policeman, politician, solicitor, social activist and other witnesses such as those living in River Heights (the flats above the Carpetright shop in the High Road) who had their homes destroyed. The play falls neatly into two halves, the first covering the events in Tottenham from the reaction to the death of Mark Duggan to the morning after, and the second briefly touching on the riots elsewhere in the country but focusing mainly on the responses and follow-up to all these events by the state and other authorities. It enjoyed a two-week sold-out run at the Bernie Grant Arts Centre in the first half of January 2012 following a longer, equally sold-out run at the Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn late last year.

That's the bald summary, of course. The real question to be addressed is whether it works as a play.

The short answer is that it does -- it's an admirably clear and concise account of what happened, boiled down from the 23 hours of interviews recorded by Slovo and her collaborators. It also (in the second half) makes an admirable stab at setting out the reasons for the rioting, as they were perceived by the participants, the onlookers and the political and journalistic commentators. It allows their various perspectives and interests to be heard without attempting to nudge the audience towards supporting any particular one of them: the views of the unemployed rioter in a hoodie are given as much weight as the government minister who sees his primary aim as eliminating the structural deficit. What weight you, the individual audience member, choose to give these competing viewpoints is your affair; the playwright will not help you. This is, very uniquely, political theatre without an explicitly political message.

That said, there is one group which is under-represented in both halves of the play: the rioters themselves. As Slovo has explained, this was the

most difficult group of people to interview, because they were either serving a prison term and thus unavailable, or on remand and instructed by their solicitors to say nothing, or still at liberty and thus unwilling to incriminate themselves. I'm also not sure that the inclusion in the second half of references to events in other English cities actually contributes much to our understanding of the events in Tottenham, which were sparked quite explicitly by the death of Mark Duggan; the rioting elsewhere appeared in many respects to be a copycat response to the Tottenham riot -- and the police's apparent inability to contain that -- rather than something which arose from particular local conditions.

(Listening to the police voices in the first half of the play -- indeed, the first person to speak is an on-call superintendent -- one begins to entertain a counter-factuality: what if, instead of staying inside Tottenham police station and failing to engage with the Duggan family, the police had taken the earliest opportunity to explain who was now responsible for what? Might the crowd have dispersed before tensions had mounted and frustrations began to be taken out on parked police cars? One can of course never know -- but one forms an impression that those first few hours of police inactivity must have contributed to some of what happened next.)

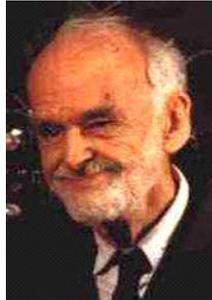
In the longer term, we have to face not just what needs to be done to rebuild Tottenham (physically as well as socially and economically) but also whether there may be further episodes of rioting in this and coming years. The government, for its part, seems to have decided that it was all due to gangs and rampant criminality (indeed, its refusal to hold a public inquiry into the causes was one of the inspirations for the play), a reaction contradicted by the subsequent "Reading the Riots" research undertaken by the LSE and *The Guardian* newspaper which found a variety of causes. What that research also found was a willingness expressed by some of the anonymous interviewees to do it all over again this summer. One hopes that's just bravado by a few unrepresentative voices; equally, it would be foolish to discount the possibility of it happening again.

More information on the play can be found at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-15852280>

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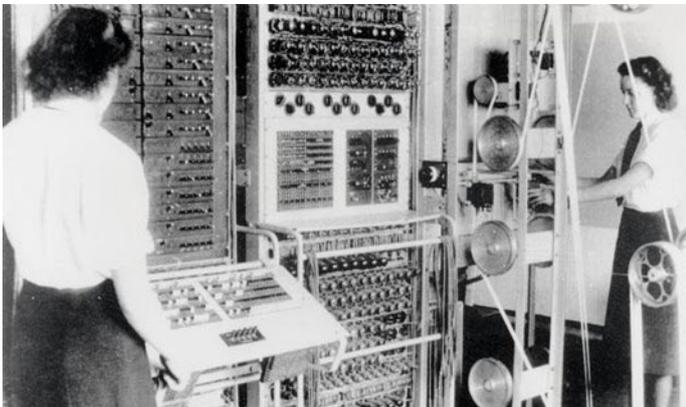
Dr. Arnold Lynch (1914-2004)

Tottenham Engineer and Scientist who made a crucial contribution to wartime code-breaking. Ray Hooper and Alan Swain



Arnold Charles Lynch was born in Tottenham in 1914, the son of Albert John Lynch a teacher at West Green School who became Mayor of Tottenham in 1939. Arnold went to Emmanuel College Cambridge to study Engineering and after graduation joined the Post Office Research Centre at Dollis Hill, London in 1936.

By 1940 Arnold Lynch was involved in a number of wartime projects at Dollis Hill and in 1942 developed an optical teleprinter paper tape reader for RAF Fighter command. In 1943, he joined a team of about 50 people that built the first electronic computer named Colossus. This machine, incorporating Lynch's tape reader,

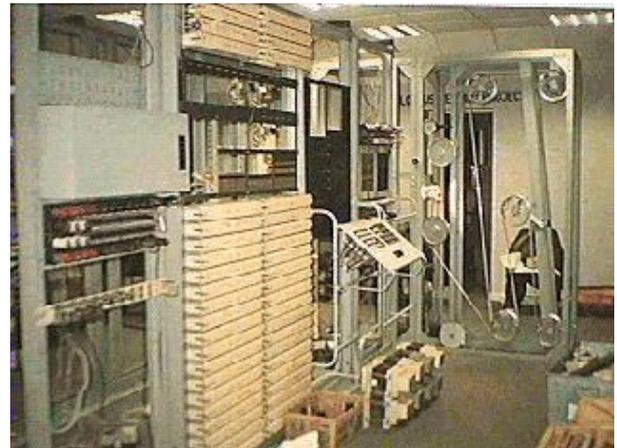


Original Colossus

was demonstrated at Dollis Hill at the end of 1943. Colossus used about 1,600 electronic valves. When it was re-assembled at Bletchley Park at the beginning of 1944, the code-breakers (for whom it had been built) were stunned by what had been achieved. They were attempting to crack the German high commands' messages enciphered by the teleprinter based Lorenz machine. This cypher was much more difficult to break than Enigma. The code-breakers had found a way, but decoding one message could take several weeks of effort. Colossus reduced this time to a few hours.

Arnold Lynch improved the original optical paper tape reader for the new Colossus requirements. A light illuminated the teleprinter punched-hole tape after it passed through the tape drive mechanism. Light that shone through the holes in the tape as it moved rapidly past hit vacuum photocells which then produced an electrical signal. When a tape loop of the enciphered message (produced from interception of the German radio traffic) was fed to the reader, Colossus was able to discover the Lorenz cypher's key settings. The reader ran at 5,000 characters per second, limited only by the speed of the tape drive, about 30 mph.

Ten Colossus machines were running at Bletchley Park by the end of the war. Colossus is estimated to have shortened the war by two years, but its existence was kept secret and most machines were destroyed. Many had believed that the first electronic computer had been demonstrated in the USA in 1946, but in



The Rebuilt Colossus at Bletchley Park.

1975 some photos of Colossus machines were revealed. In 1996, Colossus was re-built by the late Tony Sale at the Bletchley Park museum where it can now be seen in operation. In 1994, Arnold Lynch helped in the rebuilding of the original paper tape reader. Arnold Lynch made many other significant contributions to technological advancement right up to his death in 2004.

Further information can be found at:

http://tottenhamsummerhillroad.com/arnold_lynch_bletchley_park.htm

<http://www.bletchleypark.org/>

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Join Us!

I/we would like to join the Tottenham Civic Society (TCS). Annual membership will provide four quarterly copies of the TCS newsletter CIVITAS and the opportunity to participate in ventures undertaken by TCS to promote and preserve the interests of Tottenham's history and its future.

I/we enclose a cheque for the following amount:

£5 per person unwaged, students and retired people

£10 individuals

£7.50 per person with two or more members in the same household

£15 for organisations with under 100 members

£20 for organisation with over 100 members

Name.....

Organisation.....

Address.....

Tel.....

Email.....

Do you wish to join the TCS Yahoogroup?
(Keeps members updated on news and events
between newsletters)

Yes No

Do you prefer to receive your copy of Civitas
by post or by email

Please make cheques payable to:
The Tottenham Civic Society
And send them to:

TCS, 61, Durban Road, Tottenham, N17 8ED

Thankyou

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TCS email network:

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/TottenhamCS/>

To join this network, you need to follow the registration process and your membership will be confirmed by the group moderator. It's a great way to find out what's going on locally.

TCS is affiliated to Civic Voice, the new national charity that represents local civic and amenity societies. Visit their website at:

<http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/>

We are also affiliated to the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies - visit their website at: <http://www.londonforum.org.uk/>

Please Note

The views and opinions expressed in *Tottenham Civitas* are not necessarily those of Tottenham Civic Society.