

# LONDON<sup>24</sup>

## LONDON FOR LONDONERS

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### Media Trust | Week one Boxing Academy Tottenham

# Young tell of getting a fighting chance in life defying notoriety created by rioters



London24 and the Media Trust have teamed up for Stories from the City – a project where young people from across the capital tell us about their London through pictures. This week, we show the work of four youngsters from the Boxing Academy Tottenham. The project is supported by media professional mentors, funded by The Jack Petchey Foundation.

by Sarah Shaffi

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Four young people from the Boxing Academy Tottenham have given a glimpse into their world.

Clive Spencer, Louis Parkinson, Artur Majewski and Shimeon Beckles-Straker collaborated on the Stories from the City project to show readers their images of Tottenham and to share their personal stories.

One of the group's subjects was the Boxing Academy itself – an alternative to mainstream schooling.

Clive started at the Boxing Academy Tottenham in 2009. He said: "Since I have moved to the academy they have given me a second chance at my GCSEs."

"The teachers and the pod leaders are very co-operative and help me to produce my work to the best of my abilities and they have helped me to change my behaviour and become a better person."

"Also, we train in the boxing gym as part of our timetable; this gives us a chance to take on boxing as a career in the years to come."

The group also focused on people who inspired them, such as John Beckles, who works at the community centre by the academy.

Shimeon said: "John is a role model to a lot of people and helps people achieve their goals by giving advice."

"He is a former ABA (Ama-

#### Acknowledgements

Stories from the City was run by London24 and the Media Trust with funding from the Department for Education through the Improving Outcomes for Children, Young People and Families Fund.

#### Department for Education

Media Trust believes in the power of media to change lives and runs a number of youth media projects that provide disadvantaged young people with training, mentoring and the opportunity to get their voices heard. For more information visit [www.mediatrust.org](http://www.mediatrust.org).

#### Media Trust

The Jack Petchey Foundation gives grants to programmes and projects that benefit young people aged 11-25. The foundation exists to raise the aspirations of young people, to help them take advantage of opportunities and play a full part in society. Visit [www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk](http://www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk).

teur Boxing Association) champion from the 1980s and is still actively fit today at the age of 51.

"My name is Shimeon Beckles and as the next generation of the Beckles family John has given me loads of advice to help me throughout

school. I look up to John for certain things because he is my uncle and has gone through what I'm going through now, such as college and problems at home."

Living in Tottenham, the young people were all affected by the riots and for Stories from the City chose to look at the area's positive aspects.

Artur said: "As we all know as soon as people hear the name 'Tottenham' the first thing that comes in their mind is the Tottenham riots and as they hear the word 'riot' they think of something bad."

"I'm trying to show that Tottenham isn't such a bad place as people judge it for its past. You can see from some of the pictures we took that the buildings that got burnt down are slowly getting built back thanks to the community."

On the lighter side, the group also introduced the places they like to spend time.

#### Chill-out

Louis said: "The café Bite to Eat is a place where I meet my friends in the mornings. We hang out in the back of the café and chill out when we eat our food together. After we head off to school which is just across the road from the café. At lunchtime sometimes we go back over to the café. Or we would go to the chicken shop which is just across the road."



■ Shimeon with his uncle John Beckles



■ Kingsley and student Clive Spencer



■ Tolga in the Bite to Eat café hang-out

"The people who own the café are very kind and happy people. They welcome everybody who comes in."

Artur said: "The shop Chick King is the oldest chicken and chips shop in Tottenham; it's been there

for more than 25 years. Everyone gives the shop and people that work in the shop a lot of respect. The people that



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■ Pod Leader Kingsley and student Clive Spencer in the ring at Boxing Academy Tottenham

## Help is at your fingertips...

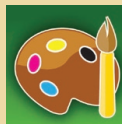
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## » LONDON24 | Competition

### Win a romantic Valentine's Day meal for two at all-day up-market eaterie

Set in the heart of London's historic Leadenhall Market, subterranean restaurant and bar The Factory House is a destination for all-day dining and sophisticated imbibing.

The Factory House serves breakfast, lunch and dinner accompanied by fine wines, craft beers and cocktails designed by bar maestro Ilario Avantaggiati.

The menus, devised by executive chef Sean Davies, showcase the best seasonal food with innovative twists on classic British dishes.

The venue boasts an ample 180-cover dining room and a sweeping copper-faced bar, with a central open grill and spit-roast sheltered by a corroded copper hood to provide theatre.

The Factory House is inspired by the excitement of the Victorian industrial age, when people were intrigued to experiment and innovate. The design of the restaurant and bar references the factory



■ You could win a romantic Valentine's dinner for two

feel and the modern-day City location: contraptions carefully sourced from archives and renovated antiques decorate the venue, and gauges and pipe work adorn the walls.

The Factory House has launched new weekly supper club events each Thursday, serving a sharing style main

course with all the trimmings, pudding, and drinks – tables for four can be booked for £100.

■ London24 has teamed up with The Factory House to offer one lucky reader and their guest a free romantic Valentine's Day meal. Just visit [www.london24.com/valentine](http://www.london24.com/valentine) for more information.



■ Mr Tryfonos is the famous Chick King

work in there are two brothers. They are really kind and helpful. Did I mention they make the most delicious chicken and

chips in Tottenham?" The academy group was mentored by photographer Roger Askew and advised by trainer

Nick Street.

■ For more pictures from the project, visit [london24.com](http://london24.com)