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# the BRIXTON Bugle

Little Brother to **BRIXTONBlog.com**



**THE REC IN FOCUS**  
Leisure centre saved *p4-5*

Edition 7 FREE

**VALENTINE'S SPECIAL**  
Brixton's finest flowers *p14*

February 2013



# Green light for youth theatre and housing

Drama centre is part of 'key vision' for town centre

By Tim Dickens

A pioneering youth arts organisation could be moving to a new theatre in the heart of Brixton.

The Ovalhouse theatre, celebrating its 50th anniversary, will work with Lambeth on the plans to develop a purpose built performance venue on Somerleyton Road.

The council has also announced that it will be working with the Brixton Green group, an organisation with more than 1,000 local shareholders, that hopes to develop a rundown stretch of land on the west side of the street.

Ovalhouse director Deborah Bestwick said the theatre has been looking for a Brixton base for a number of years and she is "very excited" about the plans.

"Many of the young people we work with come from Brixton and we have outgrown our current building in Kennington. With a new, larger building we can work with more people."

She added: "If we can create an extra benefit it's because there's a synergy of community and creative people in Brixton. We can do so much work equipping young people and supporting them to look towards further education and employment."

The plan includes two flexible theatre spaces, seven studio spaces



CREATIVE: Dancers from Ovalhouse Theatre at an event in Windrush Square last summer

and a foyer space that "brings the streetlife of Brixton in and lets the creativity of the theatre out."

Bestwick said she wants to work closely with the community in planning the centre, and if funding is secured work could start as early

as next year. The new venue could then open in 2016.

"We are contributing to something live and vital that can go beyond the exciting things that happen at Ovalhouse Theatre."

*Continued on Page 5*

Deborah Bestwick is delighted



INSIDE...



## Riots on record

We bring you the action from the launch of a pioneering *Becoming Brixton* project, with a series of short films and a website about the 1980s riots in Brixton. *Page 13*



## Ritz film guide

From Denzel to Die Hard, resident film buff Ashley Clark looks at the best, and worst, on offer at the Ritz cinema this month. *Page 12*



## Thameslink win

Commuters rejoice after cross-London train services are saved. Streatham Hill MP Chuka Umunna, though, says the government must go further and provide more carriages. *Page 4*



## Latest in Brady's pub saga

Brixton Community Trust is to refer Lambeth council to the Local Government Ombudsman over the sale of a much-loved Brixton pub. The group, which had planned to get funding to restore Brady's, in

Atlantic Road, as a community venue, is unhappy that private developers could use up to £700,000 of lottery cash to turn the building into private flats.

*Full story, Page 3.*



# NEWS

The Brixton Blog and Brixton Bugle are edited in Brixton by Zoe Jewell and Tim Dickens.

Both the website and newspaper are published by a not-for-profit community organisation. Run by a committed team of people from Brixton.

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Circulation: 9,500 copies  
Readership: circa 16,000

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Both the Blog and the Bugle are produced by a committed team of volunteers with a wide range of skills.

A massive thank you to everybody involved in making this issue, and the Blog & Bugle project, a success.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

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Juliana Lucas  
Kaylene Alder  
Brendan Zecevic  
Lindsay Harrison  
Fiona Law  
Luke Massey  
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## Labour take Brixton Hill by-election

Labour's Martin Tiedemann has been elected as the new councillor for Brixton Hill ward with a majority of 62 per cent.

Tiedemann took the seat in January after a by-election triggered by the resignation of former council leader Steve Reed.

In second place was Andrew Child from the Green Party, with 344 votes. Lib Dem Liz Maffei came third with 274 votes.

Only 22.8 per cent of voters in Brixton Hill turned out to vote, meaning 2,552 people voted out of a possible 11,206.

Speaking after being sworn in at Lambeth Town Hall, Cllr Tiedemann said: "We campaigned on the issues that matter to people in Brixton Hill, bread and butter local issues. We spoke to thousands of local



LABOUR OF LOVE: Colleagues congratulate Tiedemann

residents and listened to their concerns. Now I'll continue to work with the local community to address those issues and protect Lambeth services.

"The result is a real vote of confidence in Lambeth Labour and our campaign."

Lambeth chief executive Derrick Anderson announced

the result just after midnight on January 18. It followed a good natured election contest and the first ever hustings held by Brixton Blog at Corpus Christi church hall on January 10.

About 90 residents attended the event to quiz candidates on housing, employment and traffic on Brixton Hill.



The by-election hustings, hosted by Brixton Blog

## Results in full

M Tiedemann	Lab	1593	63%
A Child	Green	344	14%
L Maffei	LD	274	11%
T Briggs	Cons	164	6%
S Nally	TUSC	72	3%
E Jones	UKIP	63	2%
D Lambert	Soc	34	1%

## Cllr in hot water for party political email

Residents, library users and opposition councillors have reacted angrily to an email from a senior Lambeth council member which appears to snub community groups not run by the Labour Party.



Cabinet member for culture and leisure, Sally Prentice, was writing to Labour party members ahead of a meeting in Lambeth Town Hall about setting up so-called "Friends" groups to control parks and libraries. These independently-run groups are a key part of Lambeth's "cooperative council" plans.

The message said those who were friends of Labour party supporters could attend the event, but should be "broadly sympathetic" to the party's cause. She went on to say: "In the past many of the Friends groups have been run by people who are our political opponents!"

In response to the email, leaked last month, Liberal Democrat councillor Jeremy Clyne called for Cllr Prentice to consider her position in the cabinet.

He told *The Bugle*: "I will be calling for Cllr Prentice to resign. She has completely lost the confidence of the people in friends groups locally."

"It is completely outrageous and it is an insult to all the people who are already in friends groups. What this says about the co-op council is that it's just about filling these groups with Labour cronies and yes people."

Alistair Crabtree, of the Friends of Streatham Library (FoSL), wrote an open letter to council leader Lib Peck saying he was "disappointed" with the comments.

Cllr Prentice apologised for any offence caused by her email. She said: "I've worked closely with the friends groups in the past and will continue to do so in the future. I know what a vital role they continue to play in the success of Lambeth's libraries and parks."

"This meeting was intended to encourage more people to get involved in their parks and libraries. It was certainly not intended to cause offence and I am sorry if it has done."

## Blog celebrates birthday with 500,000 hits

This month marks the first anniversary of the relaunched Brixton Blog as a comprehensive online newspaper.

In its first year, the site has racked up more than half a million page impressions and attracted 350,000 unique visits.

The project also spawned *The Bugle* in June 2012 to further serve the community in Brixton.

To celebrate its birthday, the Brixton Blog team is throwing a party at Kaff Bar, Atlantic Road on February 7 at 9pm, all welcome.

The project's editors, Zoe Jewell and Tim Dickens, would like to thank volunteers for their help, businesses for their backing and all our readers for their support and encouragement throughout 2012. Here's to ten more years!



On the Blog: Chris Steele-Perkins, photographer

In the latest in our Brixton People series on Brixton Blog, Brendan Zevenic speaks to Brixton-based photographer Chris Steele-Perkins about his latest book *Fading Light, Portraits of Centenarians*, as well as taking pictures from Brixton to Beirut and El Salvador to East Dulwich.

For the full interview log on to [www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com)

## NEWS

www.brixtonblog.com

# Council accused of selling out over community pub

A landmark Brixton pub could be turned into private flats using Lottery funding despite a long-running campaign to open a community hub at the former hotel.

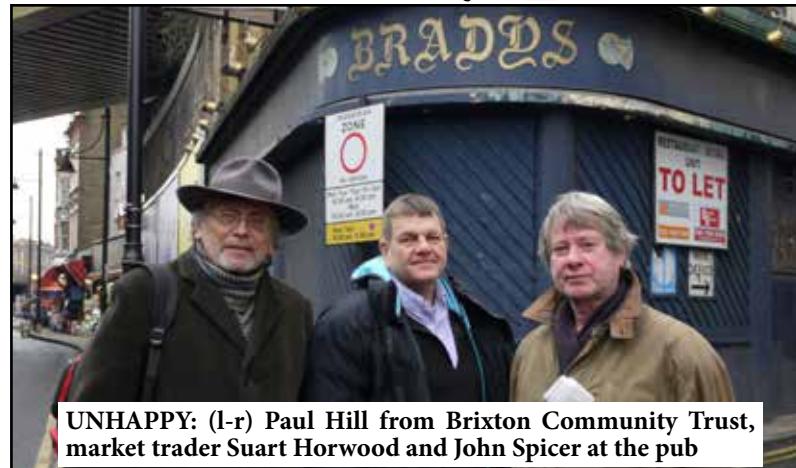
The Brixton Community Trust (BCT), has accused Lambeth council of misleading them over the sale of Brady's pub, Atlantic Road, to overseas developers. The Trust, which spent four years preparing a bid to run the pub as a community venue, is also "disgusted" that heritage lottery cash could be used.

The derelict hotel was closed in 1999, and bought by Lambeth council for £770,000 in 2005. Despite the council agreeing to work with the BCT, they sold it to private developers Zanna Ltd in December 2011.

A planning application has now been lodged to change the use of the ground floor from A3 and A4 (pub or restaurant use) to A1 (retail) meaning the pub could be lost forever.

"We were misled by Lambeth every step of the way," Paul Hill, of BCT, told the Bugle. "It was bad enough that the council sold the building after encouraging us to believe they were keeping the pub for us."

Mr Hill now plans to refer Lambeth to the Local Government Ombudsman over their behaviour con-



UNHAPPY: (l-r) Paul Hill from Brixton Community Trust, market trader Stuart Horwood and John Spicer at the pub

cerning the decaying building.

"Now to add insult to injury Lambeth is applying for £700,000 to give straight back to the developer, so effectively they've got the place for free. I am disgusted."

He added: "Selling the building to private developers was very short-sighted, our whole point was to have facilities for people in the community so they wouldn't need to access council services. We would have saved them money."

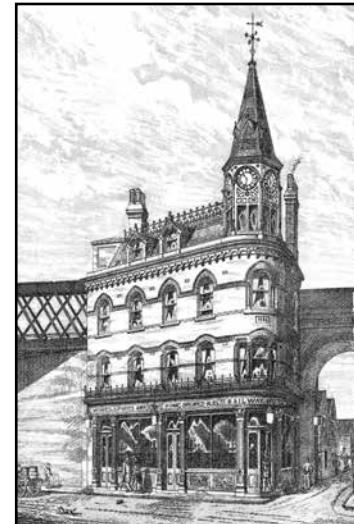
Lambeth council has applied for about £1.9million of funding, as part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative to return buildings in Atlantic Road and Electric Avenue to their former glory.

Cllr Pete Robbins, cabinet member for housing and regeneration, said: "The Brady's pub is an iconic building which has been derelict for some time. After many years of looking at alternative proposals, including working with the BCT, the council reluctantly concluded that in difficult financial circumstances, it had little choice but to sell the building.

"We have submitted a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to restore architectural details on the many historic buildings there are in Brixton, particularly on Electric Avenue and Atlantic Road. If successful we would set up a community partnership to oversee the funding."



Brady's today and an engraving from 1881 from *The Architect*



## Wide support for market petition

More than 1,100 people have signed an online petition defending a grocery store from a crippling rent hike.

The campaign calls on market owners InShops Ltd to back down from a massive rent increase of 22 per cent, imposed on Nour Cash and Carry, Market Row, before Christmas.

Pippa Couch, who helped to set up the petition, told *The Bugle*: "Nour reflects the cultural diversity of the local community and the heritage of the market. If a popular store like Nour can't manage to stay open then I fear for the unique nature of the market."

A paper copy of the petition is available to sign at Nour Cash and Carry, Market Row.

## Brix opens 'hub'

The Brix at St Matthews, Brixton Hill, has opened a community office space, in conjunction with Lambeth Council. For more information call 020 7738 6604.



HAPPY: Fred from The Brix

Come and experience an Open Evening with a difference!

Warm yourself up with a complimentary hot chocolate, marshmallows and cake!

- Take a guided tour of our workshops, see examples of students' work and experience the fantastic facilities and equipment we have to offer.
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- Get help and advice on choosing the right course for you.
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# NEWS

## Commuter joy at Thameslink trains u-turn

The Department for Transport has bowed to the weight of pressure from south London commuters and vowed to keep a through-London train service on the Thameslink route.

The government announced the decision that trains would continue through Streatham, Tulse Hill, Loughborough Junction and onwards to St Pancras and beyond. The move comes after a consultation on the future of the line that suggested terminating trains into the city at Blackfriars station.

Community activists fought a hard campaign around Loughborough Junction, Tulse Hill, and other affected stations, with petitions and a huge response from the public in Lambeth and south London.

Last summer Loughborough Junction Action Group collected

more than 1,500 signatures at the station of passengers objecting to the plan.

LJAG Co-Chair Anthea Massey said: "We are thrilled that the Department for Transport has changed its mind about stopping the trains on the Sutton Wimbledon loop at Blackfriars. This train is vital to the people of Loughborough Junction. It is our equivalent of the tube and stopping the trains at Blackfriars would have been a disaster."

Chuka Umunna, Labour MP for Streatham, said the announcement was "brilliant news" for commuters. But he criticised the Government for stopping short of increasing the number of trains on the line.

Jeremy Clyne, Liberal Democrat councillor for Streatham Hill, told the Blog: "There is joy and jubila-



**VICTORY:** Anthea Massey (right) protests at Loughborough Junction

tion for everybody, the community is absolutely delighted.

"This decision is a response to the voice of the people and the huge weight of objections. It's people power."

Rail Minister Simon Burns said the Wimbledon loop was a vital service for commuters, and that his department had listened to the

concerns of residents. He said: "The Thameslink Programme is having a huge impact on improving rail services across London and beyond, but the department was always concerned that the initial proposals for this route were not quite right."

More at [www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com)

## Carpetright site to become Supermarket

Sainsbury's has revealed its plans for a 12,000 sq ft supermarket on the site of Carpetright, on the corner of Tulse Hill and Water Lane, Brixton.

The grocery giant said the new store will create 100 new jobs in the area, and will open later this year.

Sainsbury's will make changes including building a new entrance at the north east corner of the building. Planning permission was given for the alterations in August 2012. The store has submitted an alcohol license application to Lambeth Council, but a spokesman said it will not be open 24 hours per day.



**SUPERMARKET SWEEP:**  
Carpetright as seen by Google

Lisa Poyser, Sainsbury's Development Surveyor said: "We are delighted to be opening a new Sainsbury's supermarket in Tulse Hill, keeping this prominent site in retail use and creating 100 job opportu-

nities for local people.

"We will ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum during construction and will keep the community informed throughout the works."

A Sainsbury's spokesperson said Carpetright would continue trading until March, when work will begin on the supermarket.

Local residents gave a mixed reception to the news. Andrew Child, from the Save George IV pub campaign, said: "There are already six Sainsbury's stores within a mile radius of this site and a further three Tescos.

"I note that this Sainsbury's will be not just a Local store but a regular-sized Central store. So that represents an even bigger threat to local shop keepers. I'd also say that of the up to 100 jobs that Sainsbury's says it will provide many will be unskilled, part-time and pay below the Living Wage."

Another local, Sarah Scott, said: "Part of me supports this, Brixton has only one large supermarket (Tesco) to serve an enormous population and it's always so busy it's pretty unpleasant!"

Visit [brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com) for more on this and other grocery plans.

## Knifeman jailed

A drunken man who wielded a 10 ins knife at the Beehive pub, Crossford Street, Stockwell, has been jailed.

Michael Hawksby, 33, of Lingham Street, was "heavily intoxicated", and threatened to cut off the head of a regular at the pub on January 5. He later returned to the bar, where he was arrested by police officers.

Hawksby was sentenced to 24 weeks in prison at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court on January 10.

## Redeem the Swede

The search is on for the Brixton resident who can cook the tastiest swede. Food critic, and Brixtonite, Jay Rayner will judge the Redeem the Swede Contest at Herne Hill farmers market on February 10.

The event has been organised by Herne Hill-based vegetable box scheme Local Greens. To enter go to [www.localgreens.org.uk](http://www.localgreens.org.uk).

## Blog Running club

Scores of runners have been pounding the streets with a new running club organised by the team behind the Brixton Blog and Bugle.

The free, social running club meets every Monday at Windrush Square 7pm, with different routes run at different paces around Brixton and Brockwell Park. Contact Charley@brixtonblog.com for more information.



## PROPER and PRIM

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## Fight to keep black icon in schools

By Julian Lucas

A Tulse Hill councillor has joined MPs and race campaigners fighting to prevent plans to remove Mary Seacole from the school curriculum.

Cllr Adedamola Aminu, deputy cabinet member for youth services and children, has thrown his weight behind the bid to stop Education Secretary Michael Gove from removing Seacole, a black nurse who cared for soldiers on the front line during the Crimean War. The petition was started by the campaign group Operation Black Vote (OBV).

Gove plans to replace the Crimean War nurse with historical figures such as Winston Churchill and Admiral Lord Nelson, but more than 30,000, people, including Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and Labour MPs David Lammy and Diane Abbott, have signed the petition to try and stop him.

Cllr Aminu, a lecturer at South Thames College and governor at two Lambeth



primary schools, said Gove is "wrong to remove Seacole from the school curriculum".

"I don't know why they want to remove her", he added, "The sensible thing would be to keep her in the school books so our young people can learn of the achievement black people have contributed to the country."

He continued: "Black people have achieved a lot in this country. Many, including Seacole, were involved in World War Two, but how many people know this?"

"They should include other notable black achievers into the school books so our young people know what their people have given to Great Britain."

# NEWS

[www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com)

## 'More detail' needed on Future Brixton

By Tim Dickens

A public consultation on a crucial planning document defining the future landscape of the town centre is to launch on February 1.

The draft version of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will be considered by residents and businesses in Brixton at a series of workshops and exhibitions, after it was approved by councillors in January.

The consultation will close on March 15, before the final draft goes to the full council in the Spring.

Bill Linskey, chairperson of the Brixton Society, told a meeting of the Brixton Neighbourhood Forum, attended by *The Bugle*, that the current draft needed to be more specific. "My overall impression is that it's mostly good but it needs more work," he said.

"The SPD has a lot of good aspirations but we need to know how they will be achieved. It needs to set down things like affordable housing."

"Developers need to know that they don't have a blank cheque to come into Brixton and do what they want. The development needs to be on our [the community's] terms."

"We need to do all the things that need doing, without Brixton losing its soul."

A previous version of the draft highlighted the Brixton Recreation Centre (Rec) as a possible site for



**YOUR SHOUT:** A Future Brixton exhibition on Windrush Square last year gets residents' views

development, with the 30-year-old building pulled down and replaced by retail and housing space.

Cllr Pete Robbins, cabinet member for housing & regeneration, said: "We are determined to preserve the unique character of Brixton which makes it such a great place to live, work and visit. Brix-

ton has already had significant investment and become an incredibly successful town centre."

He added: "This document will make sure people from Lambeth share the benefits of future investment, with new homes and businesses that meet their needs. Residents and business people in

Brixton have told us what they want to see happen in the future, and this document will help make that a reality."

To find out more and to have your say, visit [www.lambeth.gov.uk/futurebrixton](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/futurebrixton), email [futurebrixton@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:futurebrixton@lambeth.gov.uk) or call 020 7926 3026.

**Site will provide theatre and homes**

**Continued from Page 1**

The Somerleyton Road site runs off Coldharbour Lane, Brixton and is on partly vacant land of around 15,000 sq m between the Moorlands Estate and the railway line to Herne Hill.

Cllr Pete Robbins, Cabinet member for housing and regeneration, said: "This is a new approach for Lambeth, and we're excited about working with Brixton Green and Ovalhouse Theatre on these ambitious plans."

Under the scheme, Brixton Green will work with the council to deliver new homes, offices and a health centre on the "key" site.

Brixton Green chairman Stephen Jordan said: "The transformation of Somerleyton Road would bring lasting benefits for the wider neighbourhood."

Ovalhouse theatre, Brixton Green and council officers will now sit down with architects to come up with detailed plans for the site.



**SITE: Somerleyton Road**

## Help shape your future Brixton



The Brixton SPD will be a guide for change and growth in the town centre. It will let people know how we all think Brixton can change for the better. We want you to have your say now on the draft document.

Brixton is always changing. In the last 5 years Windrush Square completed, Evelyn Grace Academy opened and Brixton Village became a huge success. But it is the people that make Brixton special.

Your ideas and energy can make sure the changes that happen benefit Brixton and everyone who lives and works here.

Visit [www.lambeth.gov.uk/futurebrixton](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/futurebrixton),  
email [futurebrixton@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:futurebrixton@lambeth.gov.uk)  
or call 020 7926 3026

# IN FOCUS: BRIXTON REC

[www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com)

## Council promise firm future for Recreation Centre

By Kaye Wiggins and Tim Dickens  
Lambeth council have pledged to "retain, refurbish and upgrade" Brixton Recreation Centre (Rec), after a passionate battle over its future.

Clr Pete Robbins has written an amendment to the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), assuring that the iconic centre will not be pulled down to make way for retail units and housing.

At a cabinet meeting on January 14, Brixton Rec users criticised local councillors for not making a written commitment to keep the leisure centre open – despite a verbal pledge from the council's leader that it would not be demolished.

Council leader Lib Peck told campaigners in December that the council would not go ahead with a proposal to knock down the popular centre, which was once visited by Nelson Mandela.

But at the cabinet meeting last month, Robyn Dasey, a member of the Brixton Rec Users' Group, said she was worried because the SPD did not commit to keeping the centre open.

"If the council does not amend the document to follow what it has committed to, then a large number of the Rec's users will say they can't trust the council, and they will have justification for that," she said.

"The distrust level will be massive," she added.

However, councillor Sally Prentice told Dasey: "I have no desire to cause more anxiety."



Cllr Prentice said that she and Cllr Robbins would work with the user group to reach an agreement about amending the planning document.

Cllr Peck also reassured users at the meeting: "You can take my guarantee that there is no intention to demolish the Rec."

Cllr Prentice acknowledged that it was a "major mistake" for the council not to have held a meeting with users of the Rec before publishing a proposal to demolish the centre.

She said the council's position was to "retain, refurbish and upgrade the Rec", adding: "We are in conversations with [users] about refurbishing and upgrading the

Rec and getting some time set aside for that...but I should also say that there are two other major projects going on in Streatham and Norwood so it will take time to allocate resources."

For more on the SPD turn to Page 5, or [www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com).



## Mandela, Abu Shanti and cold swims: Thirty years in the life of a leisure centre

»**1984** The Recreation Centre opened. It was built as a direct reaction to the Brixton riots in 1981 to provide a leisure space for the community and black youth in particular.

»**July 1996** Nelson Mandela spends an afternoon in the Rec and massive, joyous crowds welcome him to Brixton

»**2006** 500 people attend Abu Shanti Saturday night dances in the centre. The same year, the Rec is threatened with demolition by a Lib Dem/Conservative coalition in the council. A campaign to save the Rec begins.

»**June 2007** Rec closure suddenly announced by Lambeth council. Hundreds organise to oppose this, march on Town Hall and command a council Assembly Rooms meeting (pic below by Jason Cobb). The council belatedly explains closure is for major structural works rather than permanent.



»**Feb 2008** Rec reopened. Council recognises BRUG (Brixton Rec User Group) as consultative body for Rec users.

»**2010** After a period of broken central heating and the coldest swimming experience in the borough, the changing rooms are refurbished, funded by Sport England.

»**2011** 11,000 sign a petition to the council to keep free swimming for under 16s and over 60s, when the government withdrew funding from local councils to provide this. Lambeth council agreed to limit payment to £1 per swim and has not increased this since.

»**2012** More than 60,000 people use the Rec each month.

»**September – December 2012** A suggestion to demolish the Rec first appears in the draft 'Future Brixton' plan. BRUG organises campaign against it. Council commits that demolition is not on its agenda and it wants to consult on improvements at the Rec.

»**January 2013** BRUG makes detailed proposals to Council for improvements. Cllr Pete Robbins writes amendment to be added to SPD draft.

## Seventies architecture is beacon to 'inspire and uplift'

By Julian Cripps, Rec user

The Rec was the result of an extended design development period that modern architects would only now dream of and like the Routemaster bus was made to satisfy many criteria, that go far beyond the reach and aspirations of most modern public sports and leisure design, with exception being the Olympic buildings.

The scale of the Rec is impressive and the range of sporting provision is exceptional, from lawn bowls to climbing. The sports hall is of a size that even today is rare, because

of its generous height can accommodate many competitive indoor sports at a high level. The pool hall is exceptional and its architectural quality is unmatched anywhere else in London. The space, natural light, timber lining and arrangement of family friendly pools are a delight and a credit to the vision of the local political leaders and architects.

The Rec is not only an unrepeatable asset in brick and concrete but, in the unique spaces and combination of provision, it has enabled life, leisure and sport accessibility to a historically deprived and troubled

community. The Rec has become a beacon of enlightened provision and symbolic of investment and regeneration of deprived city areas.

The embodied energy in the Rec is high, and I do not believe that replacement studies will have fully appreciated the vast scale of the building that fits on a modest size plot. The Rec has a pool on the second floor and the sport hall on the 6th floor, not out of Architectural whim but to fit all the facilities in.

This architecture not only inspires and uplifts but, is accommodating change and new visions.



Picture Jeannine Mansell

## YOUR BRIXTON REC: Max Macbride asks regular users for their views...



**Harry Browning,  
Brixton  
Bowls Club  
captain**

place warm, it gets very draughty and the nature of the building means it's difficult to change that in the current state. If they do have to pull it down I'd like them to build it again.

**Marlene Joseph, Home Care Agency Worker**

I come to Brixton often with my Grandson, who works with the football-in-the-community projects at the Rec. I'm rather sad to hear any views expressed to close this place. It's like a lifeline to the community. What were they thinking of? Without it I think youth would have nowhere to go and crime would increase. We have to make sure this remains open. Just look around – people full of vitality and people who want to be involved.



**Anne  
Instone,  
Retired**

I play Badminton about three times a week here. It's a fantastic resource, and it's reasonably priced, however there is a fair bit of wasted space. Although I like the building, I think what matters are facilities not buildings. So the important thing is that there continues to be somewhere with the same resources available centrally, without interruption. But I don't think it necessarily has to be this building. It's coming to the end of its design life, which I think was 25 years and I gather the maintenance costs are high. For instance the swim-

ming pool is leaky; they probably shouldn't have put it up so high. I would have thought they could provide the same facilities in a smaller area and probably fit a Tesco's in too, not that anybody wants another Tesco's!

**Karyce Maitland, Lambeth Schools Sports Programme and Simeon Hallissey Disability Sports Coaching (pictured right)**

I run multi-skills and football sessions for local children with autism here. The sessions are really valuable, and the children really don't have too many other places locally they can go. I'm concerned about the threat of closure. Not just because I'm worried about my job, but because of what the Rec coming down would mean for the children. A lot of them aren't from well-off back-



grounds, so to travel further would be a problem. I definitely think the Rec could be improved though. The concept is great but it could do with a revamp. And if a supermarket were to take over I think that's even worse because of the effect on the market and local business. We don't need any more Tesco's!

years now. There are about 80 of us in the club, and a lot of us have been coming for that long too. It means a lot to me, it's more than just sport - it's a community and a social network. If we're not here, if they close this down, we'd have to move to Crystal Palace and start all over again, getting to know new people and new competitions. This building is ancient though, and refurbishment has been a long time coming. You can't keep this

## IN FOCUS: BRIXTON REC

[www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com)

# Football club gives boys chance to succeed

By Michelle Banville

It's a cold afternoon in December and I've come to Brixton Recreation Centre to interview Steadman Scott. Steadman has been running a football club, Afewee, for local youngsters here for the past ten years and recent talk about the Council selling off the Rec worried him a great deal. He is passionate about the benefits of his football programme which has given hope and success to many of Brixton's young people.

He has lived in Brixton for 40 years after coming from Jamaica at the age of ten.

"I went straight to Shakespeare Road and I've been here all my life. Everything I know in life is from here. When I was young there was nothing in Brixton for us."

"That's why the Recreation Centre means so much to the black community. We fought for it. Before the Centre was built we were the young guys on the street and they said to us 'Why are you on the street?' and we said because there's nowhere else for us to go. So after the riots they decided to put this place here, for us guys on the street corner, young guys with no money, in blocks of flats and in gangs."

"The Rec has always been a place where we can feel comfortable. And if we can use it to be successful then that will force the council to back us up and put in more programmes that are going to help our youngsters, like the boxing I'm trying to bring in."

After leaving prison in the 1990s, Steadman joined a Football in the Community programme and went on to gain coaching, community leadership, weight training and personal training qualifications. Before he went into prison, the football programmes in the community did



not exist.

As Steadman says, the young boys that come out of his own football programme are of benefit to their community: "Our boys are coming out of here disciplined. My understanding is that everybody is scared of our youngsters. The schools are scared of them, out on the street they're scared of them, even the parents are scared of our youngsters; but you see I am in the community, I see these boys all the time."

There is no doubt that these young boys would otherwise be hard to reach. But Steadman isn't interested in running clubs where kids can have fun and fill time. "It's our duty to help our youngsters and put these programmes in that are going to help them to be successful. The opportunity wasn't there when

I was young. So that's my real motivation when I look at these kids. It gives

me the drive to say 'look, don't let anybody tell you that you can't be a footballer'. These kids need dreams.

"Our youngsters need to be put into these clubs where they can be a part of society, so they can have the same dreams as anybody else. If they don't come into clubs like mine then they're likely to get involved with these postcode gangs where they think 'I can't go here and I can't go there', so their dreams and expectations are limited."

"There's a boy from here in America on a \$50 million contract [Basketball player Luol Deng]. They should have pictures of him here so when the kids walk in they can say I want to be like him."

As Steadman and I sit in the sports hall on the upper level of the Rec, it starts to fill with young people of all ages, shapes and sizes. Jimmy, their basketball coach arrives to start putting them through their paces.

"The postcode situation happens with black kids. So it's our generation's responsibility to make

sure that the programmes the government puts in are programmes that have goals. Like the basketball programme and the football programme."

Since his Afewee football programme started Steadman has seen the results of the work put in by him and his partner, Tony Goldring. "The reason I'm so passionate about it is because I see it works. Boys from here have moved on to top academies and clubs - Nathaniel Clyne at Southampton - he's the first boy we sent to Arsenal; Sean Scannell who now plays for Huddersfield; Andre Blackman who went to Celtic, Jordan Hibbert now playing in Sweden; Leo Chambers at West Ham; Ifeanyi Allen at Barnet. Boys from here are in every Premiership club in London and in every division."

Even if boys do not make it into professional football, they still benefit from the football programme through increased confidence and self-esteem. Steadman himself says that running the programme also gives him self-esteem and a purpose in life.

*If you want to support the campaign to protect Brixton Recreation Centre go to the Users' website at [www.brixtonrec-usergroup.co.uk](http://www.brixtonrec-usergroup.co.uk). Also, keep reading the Brixton Bugle for regular updates on what's happening.*



Steadman Scott (right) and Tony Goldring (third right) take a break from coaching at the Rec with players.

All pictures by Jeannine Mansell  
» [www.jeanninemansell.com](http://www.jeanninemansell.com)

**Santiago, 8-years-old:** "It's fun and also important because we can get to go to academies and you know what happened to some boys who came here? They went to Crystal Palace and now they're famous". "The Rec is important as well for people who play basketball in wheelchairs here. They have a dream like try to be famous basketball players".

"My dream is to be the best footballer in the world".

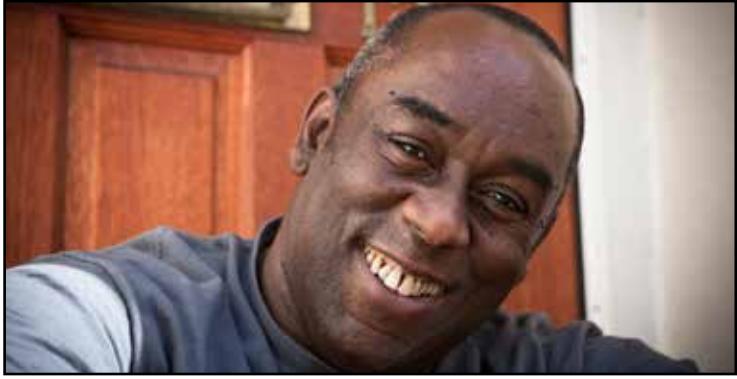
"If the Rec was closed I'd feel sad 'cos I see them every Saturday and Steadman and Tony are good trainers and I like it just the way it is".

*Santiago has just been signed up to Fulham FC Academy.*

**Jordy Renaldo, 10-years-old:** "What I like about Brixton Recreation Centre is the coaches because not every coach lets you come in when you don't pay the full price. You can pay the next day you come back. And their football is really good. it makes me feel good because more practising and more coaching makes you better. Playing here is good because they train you and you can't do whatever you want. You have to have discipline". "Football really means a lot. I have to come to training no matter what".



# WHAT'S ON



## CRITIC'S CHOICE: Brixton Book Jam - Mon 4th Feb

The third Brixton Book Jam promises another evening of unpredictable and stimulating book-based – but not bookish – entertainment with a host of local authors. The current line-up includes the likes of Alex Wheatle (above), Geoff Dyer and Martin Millar, who will all be reading excerpts from their work. The event will be ably compered with laconic wit by Ivor Dembina and there will also be a pop-up bookshop with small presses stocking local literature. The Book Jam is fast becoming a local institution and offers a hearty taste of the Brixton literary scene that book lovers should not miss.

[www.brixtonbookjam.com](http://www.brixtonbookjam.com)

Hootananny Brixton, Effra Road, 7pm, free



## CRITIC'S CHOICE: Temporal Dislocation Tues 12th Feb

Photographer James Smith will be giving a talk and engaging in conversation at Photofusion about his most recent project 'Temporal Dislocation', as well as life as a photographer after graduating from the Royal College of Art. He will be joined by RCA tutor Nigel Rolfe. A lover of brutalist architecture, James told The Bugle that he wants his work "to make things simple" for appreciators of art and we expect his talk to be grounded, accessible and interesting. To find out more about his exhibition, read our review on Page 13.

*Photofusion, 17a Electric Lane.*

### Saturday 2nd Feb

**Brixton Bakers & Flea Market**  
Like a car boot sale without the car's and with cakes, and breads and other treats.  
Brixton Station Rd 10am – 5pm,

### Sunday 3rd Feb

**Catch a Fire Reggae**  
Heyareyah and the Human Bridge band. DJ Zinc Fence playing dancehall, ska and reggae. Brixton's "longest running" reggae night.  
Upstairs at the Ritzy, 8pm, Free

### Monday 4th Feb

**Brixton Book Jam**  
Readers & Writers Social (see left).  
Monday 4th Feb 7, 7pm, free

### Wed 6th Feb

**Gypsy Jam**  
North African, Gnawa, Middle Eastern, Latin and Balkan tunes, with jazz-influenced improvisations from Melange Collective. Concert followed by jam session, bring an instrument.  
Upstairs at the Ritzy, 8pm, free

### Thursday 7th Feb

**Rip Roaring Roots**  
Hubert Murray, Bruno Pichler, Sam Rose and more  
Upstairs at the Ritzy, 8pm, free

### Friday 8th Feb

**Radio King Sessions**  
Brings together some of Brixton's emerging talent, part open mic part showcase  
7.30pm - 2am, Electric Brixton

### Sunday 10th Feb

**Lovers Rock Affair**  
Worldbeat music including Peter Spence, Dennis Pinnock, DJ Lantan and Frederica Tibbs.  
To win tickets turn to Page 14  
Jamm, Brixton Road  
8.30pm - late  
[www.jamm.org](http://www.jamm.org)

### Sunday 10th Feb

**Redeem the Swede**  
Herne Hill farmers mkt, 10am



## Single?

### This Valentine's will you be...

Contestant No.1: Miserable, boring and staying in watching Corrie?

or...

Contestant No.2: An arrogant so-and-so that loves themselves and the mirror? or will you be...

Contestant No.3: Frisky, mischievous and up for a laugh and some drinks???

### The choice...is yours

## Valentine's

# Blind Date

...with Miss Cilla Black

Thursday 14th Feb.  
7.30pm - late

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We are funded by The Collaborative - NHS Lambeth

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# WHAT'S ON

[www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com)

## CRITIC'S CHOICE: NME Awards Tour After Party, 23rd Feb

You don't always get the chance to see big name bands up close and personal – but that's exactly what you'll get if you head to the NME Awards Tour After Party at the Jamm. Two of the most exciting live bands around today, Django Django and Palma Violets, will be stepping off the Academy stage and heading down the road to the Jamm to bang out DJ sets. Legendary XFM DJ, Eddie Temple Morris, will also be on hand to keep the crowd happy, and if that wasn't enough, Fast from Fun Lovin' Criminals will also be making an appearance on the decks.

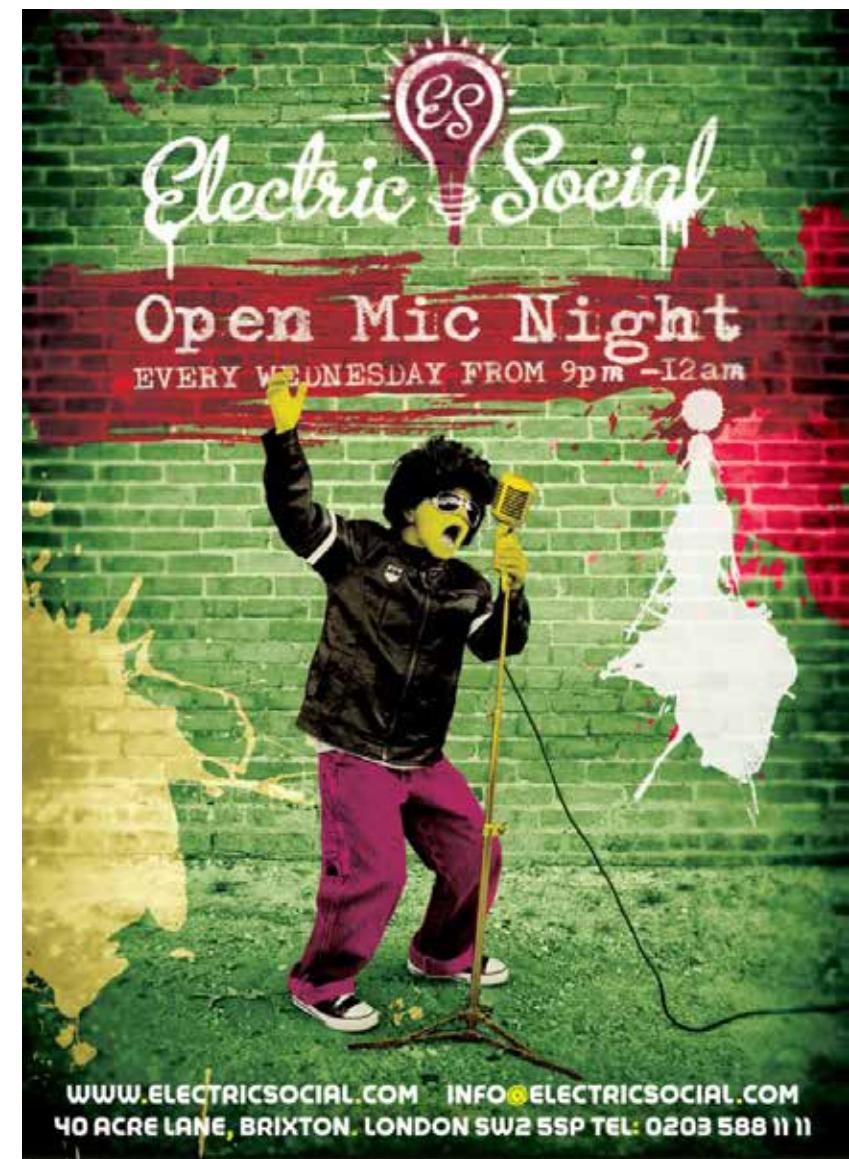
*Brixton Jamm, Brixton Road  
www.brixtonjamm.org*



## CRITIC'S CHOICE: Deftones 20th Feb

Alt-metal fivesome Deftones are back with a vengeance. Following the disappointment of 2006 album 'Diamond Eyes', these Californian rock veterans have rediscovered their earlier vigour and enter a third decade together with their seventh album, 'Koi No Yakan'. Released November last year, this pulsating record has met with critical acclaim and ensured the band remain one of the most revered metal groups around. Their mammoth world tour kicks off in the UK this month and if the brutal energy of their latest album is anything to go by, it's going to be a corker. Do you want to review this for *Brixton Blog*? Email arts@Brixtonblog.com.

*O2 Academy, Stockwell Road  
www.o2academybrixton.co.uk*



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or visit [www.pianoclub.org](http://www.pianoclub.org)

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# YOUR THOUGHTS

[www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com)

## Let it snow...

Some of your snowy Tweets:



**@TerrollOnline:**  
#BlockWorkOut On tomorrow in the snow. 10:30am ladies, 12noon Guys. Brockwell Park!!!



**@DailyStarEmily:**  
Brockwell Park looks stunning in the snow this morning. Not sure I'd fancy a dip in the Lido though #hernehill



**@\_Leeroy\_**  
#Brixton looks lovely in the evening snow.

Tweet us #Brixton  
@Brixtonblog



## READERS' PICTURES: Pull Dad pull!

This month's pic had to be a snowy one, and we loved this photograph by Kate Munro (@what\_katy\_did). Her picture captures the Sunday in January when part of Brockwell Park resembled a ski station for the day.

Upload your Brixton pictures to our Flickr page: [www.flickr.com/groups/brixtonblog](http://www.flickr.com/groups/brixtonblog)



**newsdesk@brixtonblog.com**  
**www.brixtonblog.com**

## GROWING SPACE: February is a time to plan and prepare for Spring

*Garden, balcony or windowsill: what to do this month, with Fiona Law*

There's not a lot to sow right now but for the joy of germination try sprouting seeds. Alfalfa, mung beans and even broccoli seeds make tasty and nutritious additions to salads and sandwiches.

You can buy tiered sprouters online, or make your own using a jam jar with netting tied over the opening. Buy packs or experiment with lentils or beans and seeds from the kitchen cupboard. Larger seeds benefit from overnight soaking to start them off. Rinse the seeds twice daily and watch the baby roots and shoots emerge. They don't even need sunlight as all the energy for growth is stored in the seed itself. Note: don't use seeds intended for outside growing as these can be chemically treated.

Hedges and conifers can split under the weight of melting snow. Gently knock snow off the foliage with a broom. Don't hit



trunks or stems as you could damage the living tissue under the bark and allow in pests and diseases.

Raise pots off the ground with 'feet' or little blocks to prevent roots from freezing. You want to do this anyway, to allow water to drain.

You might start sowing tomatoes, aubergines and peppers on a draught-free double-glazed and well-lit windowsill. It's

risky as seedlings are likely to get 'leggy', growing tall to seek the light and any advantage for earlier fruiting will be lost with plants that are weak in the long run.

Yes, this time of year is best spent planning what you want to grow in 2013. Have a good old google round seed catalogues, and look out for seed swaps and potato days. Transition Town Crystal Palace and South London Master Gardeners are hosting a seed swap at Antenna Studios this Saturday, 26th January, and you can also find out about the Incredible Edible Lambeth Squash and Bean Swap, a borough-wide project for the 2013 Chelsea Fringe.

Fiona Law is a garden designer and horticulturalist, also working on community growing projects in Lambeth.

» Visit [vivekagardens.com](http://vivekagardens.com)

» Follow @vivekagardens @lambethpoly

## TAKE FIVE

Bridget Chapman



Teacher Bridget Chapman gets fed up with people talking up the latest new cafe in the market as if that was all Brixton has to offer. Here she introduces us her neighbourhood, on the dizzying heights of Brixton Hill...

### 1. Angela's Cafe, 28 New Park Road

This tiny greasy spoon cafe with just three tables is run by the eponymous Angela, and it serves a really excellent fry up. Proper home-made bubble and squeak, toast made from good crusty bread, decent bacon, strong mugs of builder's tea and a catch-up on the local gossip are all on offer here. And Angela and her staff are proper lovely – there's always a warm welcome, and they're especially good at nursing those who've overdone it in the pub the night before. Not that I, personally, have ever done that, obviously. Ahem.

### 2. McKays Hardware, 17 New Park Road

The sheer range of products and services they manage to pack into one shop never ceases to amaze me. From key cutting to paint mixing, from potting compost to rakes, from spirit levels to picture hooks, the guys here always have a solution to my DIY problems. And they never, ever, commit the cardinal sin of patronising me because I'm a woman. And, for this, I love them!

### 3. Hand in Hand Pub, 61 New Park Road

If you want a trendy gastropub, don't come here. The Hand in Hand is the exact opposite of that, and I wouldn't change a thing about it. It is simply a good, decent local boozer, with mismatched chairs and a good mix of customers. The people that run it are brilliant and they put on some great nights. I'll often come past and get drawn in by a quiz night, or a ska event. My Dad loves it too, and he's notoriously difficult to please. They only do one bitter on draught but he says it's always well-kept.

### 4. Nou's Fruit and Veg stall

Nou (pronounced 'now') runs the fruit and veg stall near Sainsbury's at the top of Brixton Hill. He doesn't have the same range as Brixton Market, of course, but what he has is fresh, great value, and always handed over with a cheery smile. Every scoop is just a pound, and two or three quid can often net you a carrier bag full of goodies.

### 5. Bombay Inn, 220 Brixton Hill 020 8671 7372

I'm really lucky to have this excellent Indian Restaurant on my doorstep. Their food is brilliant, and they do one of the best saag paneers I've ever tasted (and let me tell you I am somewhat of a connoisseur in this area). It's all freshly prepared, and so delicious I have to make a concerted effort not to end up in there every week. They are brilliant value too – the bill at the end of the meal is always a nice surprise! The best bit is they deliver, so you don't even have to head up the hill to sample their wares, just pick up the phone.

# ANALYSIS

[www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com)


## BRIXTON Blog

The Ovalhouse Theatre has announced it could be coming to Somerleyton Road and we are excited about the opportunities it could bring with it. The importance of youth projects like this and those run by the likes of Steadman Scott with his football team Afewee and Jimmy Rogers with the Brixton Topcats cannot be underestimated - they are the lifeblood of Brixton. With youth unemployment at a disastrous level in the area and much disillusionment for many young people who live here, it is tireless workers like Scott, Rogers and Ovalhouse theatre director Deborah Bestwick who provide confidence and support. "Our boys are coming out of here disciplined", says Steadman Scott in our interview with him on page 7. "It's our duty to help our youngsters and put these programmes in that are going to help them be successful."

The Ovalhouse move comes with a lot of questions about what the rest of developments on the Somerleyton Road site will mean for the area. We will be looking in more detail over the coming months at Brixton Green's plans, which have so far been somewhat hard to get a grip on. It is vital to ensure that the people who actually live in the Somerleyton estate and surrounds are happy with plans and that some of Brixton's most historic buildings in the area are not lost - let's make sure we don't see the demise of the Nuclear Dawn Mural, for instance.

Everyone who lives in Brixton needs to get involved in shaping the future of our town centre. The latest consultation on the Supplementary Planning Document is launched today. It must contain concrete assurances and plans across the board or, as Brixton Society chair Bill Linskey says in these pages, out-of-town developers will have a blank cheque to do what they want with our unique environment. It needs to balance regeneration with the real needs of a community by focusing on social housing quotas and looking closely at what's happening in each of our three famous markets.

Let's also then keep sticking up for what we have already - Steadman's idea to have big images of local sporting stars up in the Brixton Rec is a simple, cheap and yet very effective one. Here's hoping he gets his boxing club off the ground with local support too. The council must not forget the importance of promoting and investing in our young people - the positive effects are too great to ignore.

## Market is more than Granville Arcade and Market Row units

By Stuart Horwood  
CEO, Brixton Market Traders' Federation



*Ethnic cleansing: the process or policy of eliminating unwanted ethnic or religious groups by deportation, forcible displacement, or by threats of such acts, with the intent of creating a territory inhabited by people of a homogeneous or pure ethnicity, religion, culture, and history (WIKIPEDIA).*

Whether we like it or not, and whether it was intentional or not, this is what is happening to Brixton Market. The process had a clear start point, the closure of Pope's Road car park. No more family weekly shopping. No more bulk buying from the indoor markets' grocers, butchers and fishmongers. The second stage, which we are now witnessing, is the transformation of the indoor markets into a leisure destination.

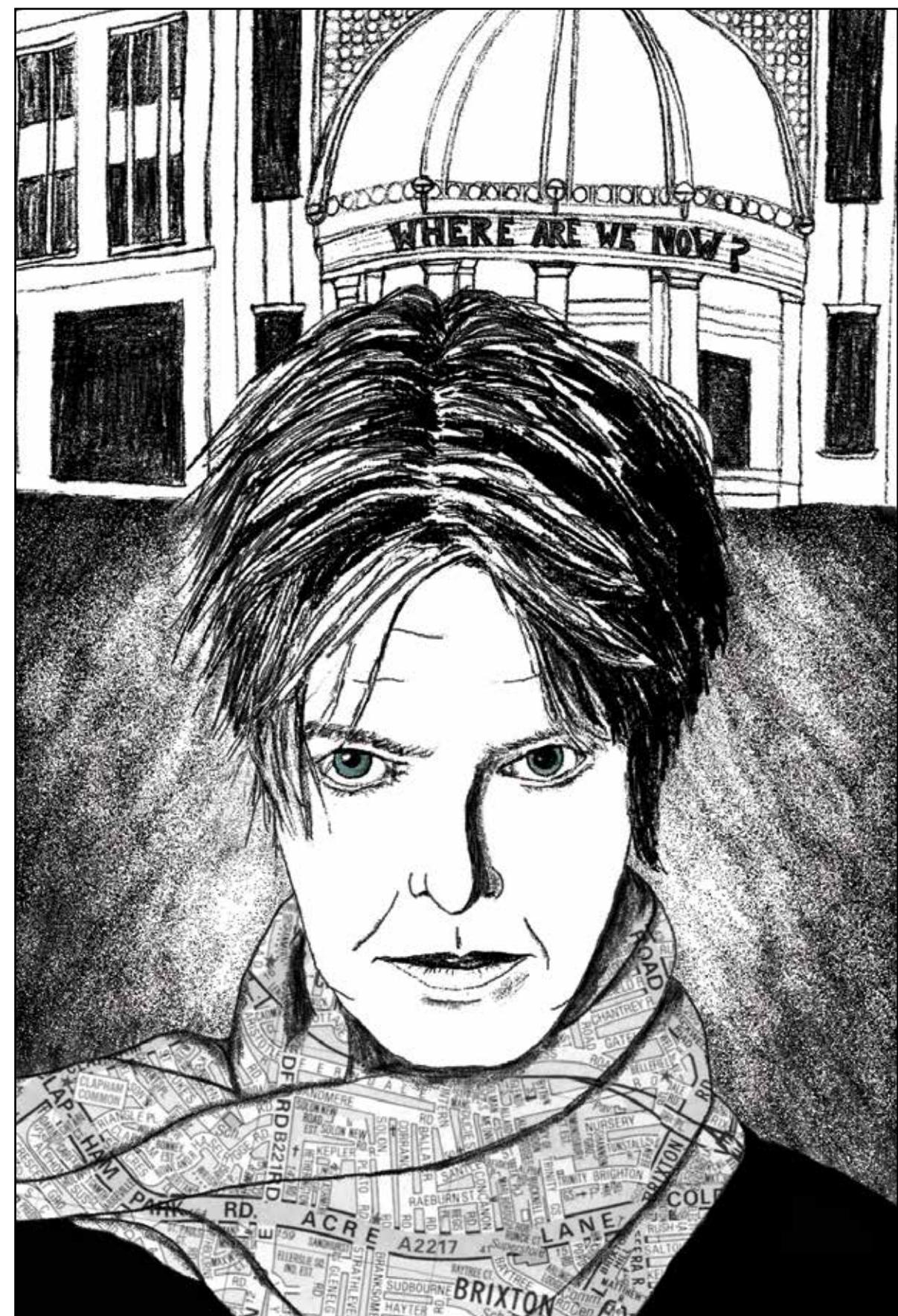
In the face of this sea change the street markets manage to retain an air of stability, but are often

confused in the public definition of 'Brixton Market'. Brixton Market has 3 distinct constituents: the street market stalls which can be traced back to the 1870's, the privately owned indoor markets with retail units built in the 1930's, and the shops (including their shop front sellers) mainly found on Electric Avenue and Atlantic Road.

The general street markets of Electric Avenue and Pope's Road cater to the less affluent; the stallholders are well established licensed market traders. The community ethos behind Station Road Market (managed by Brixton Market Traders' Federation) encourages start-up business from all corners of society and mirrors Brixton's diverse cultural make-up.

The Federation has played a major role in championing the market's independent spirit for many years and will continue to do so. Even when we have to say 'we told you so'.

[www.brixtonmarket.net](http://www.brixtonmarket.net)



Where are we now? Illustration by Kaylene Alder [www.kaylenealder.com](http://www.kaylenealder.com)

## The Bugle by numbers

- » **66** age of Stansfield Road's David Bowie, who has released a new track
- » **500,000** page views on the BrixtonBlog.com in its first year
- » **350,000** unique visits to the site since February 2012
- » **12,000** sq ft size of the Sainsbury's supermarket planned for Water Lane
- » **2015** year that Oval House Theatre hopes to open in heart of Brixton
- » **1,100** signatures on a petition to save below Nour Cash and Carry

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[www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com)

# FILM

# Die Hard and Denzel, a month at the Ritzy

Throughout February at the Ritzy you can expect the usual filmic variety. Film writer Ashley Clark looks at a month of explosions in Russia, terror in the air, and rubbish impersonations of famous directors at south London's cosiest picturehouse.

He might be 87 years old, but that hasn't stopped Bruce Willis from squeezing back into his iconic, filthy wife-beater for a fifth instalment of the Die Hard franchise named (scarcely creditably) *A Good Day To Die Hard* (15 Feb). This time around, New Jersey hardnut John McClane has got serious beef with the Russians. He's got help, too, in the form of his errant son Jack, a hard-headed CIA agent. Expect explosions, punching, CGI, more explosions and wisecracks, though not necessarily in that order.

For months now, regular visitors to the Ritzy will have seen the dignity-sapping pre-film commercial in which Anthony Hopkins - completely mummified under

prosthetics as Alfred Hitchcock - haughtily implores the lumpen-proletariat to shut down their Blackberries (or something). And now the film version of the advert - *Hitchcock* (8 Feb) - is soon to be upon us. Sadly, Sacha Gervasi's account of the making of the great director's *Psycho* is fundamentally misconceived and mishandled from the off, and ends up little more than a glorified, self-satisfied TV drama. One to miss.

Far more enjoyable is Robert Zemeckis' *Flight* (1 Feb), a gripping drama about an airline pilot named 'Whip' Williams (Denzel Washington) who saves a plane from crashing, but happens to be packed to the gills with coke and booze at the time. Whoops! Moral and legal complications swiftly ensue in Zemeckis' first live-action drama since *Castaway*, which also features excellent support from the likes of Don Cheadle as a persuasive lawyer, and the ubiquitous John Goodman as Williams' friendly dealer.



**WHIPLASH:** Denzel Washington as a pilot in gripping drama *Flight*

Other films to keep an eye out for include Terrence Malick's dreamy *To The Wonder* (22 Feb), a spiritual and visual cousin of *The Tree of Life*, but with added Ben Affleck and about half-an-hour shorter; Paul Andrew Williams'

mega-long adaptation of David Mitchell's "we're all connected" novel *Cloud Atlas* (22 Feb), which defies explanation in a capsule round-up, but does feature Hugh Grant playing a full body-painted cannibal.

The Ritzy's ongoing Discover Tuesdays strand - dedicated to showcasing the best in arthouse cinema - continues in February, too. Highlights include *McCullin* (Feb 5), a informative, bracing documentary about the eponymous photojournalist; and Pablo Larraín's truly brilliant - and completely unmissable - historical thriller *No* (Feb 12), starring Gael García Bernal as a slick, cynical advertising executive tasked with creating a campaign to depose feared Chilean leader Augusto Pinochet in the 1988 Plebiscite.

Ritzy Cinema, Brixton Oval

Ashley Clark runs the film blog Permanent Plastic Helmet. You can follow it on Twitter @PPlasticHelmet and/or him @\_Ash\_Clark.

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## CULTURE

# Riot on record

Arts co-editor Barney Evison discovers *Becoming Brixton*, a new initiative to preserve the oral history of riots.

*Becoming Brixton* is an exciting new film and digital media project which launched last week at the Ritzy. A charitable initiative led by Chocolate Films, *Becoming Brixton* has worked with a number of young people from Lambeth, including students of Dunraven School, and has sought to document the hidden stories behind the infamous Brixton riots of the '80s and the more recent unrest of August 2011, through a series of short films.

The young filmmakers, aged 14-19, were trained by Chocolate Films to use cameras and sound equipment so that they could interview local people for the project.

Several high profile members of the community were pleased to be interviewed and filmed, including Lord Paul Boateng, Blacker Dredd, Alex Wheatle, Symeon Brown and Clovis Salmon, as well as Bill Butler and Mike Harding, two firefighters present at the 1981 riot.

The driving force behind this project is the need to provide an objective and multi-faceted record of the riots which is publicly available today and preserved for generations to



come. Speaking to Aoife Twomey and Nick Shaw, workshop facilitators at Chocolate Films, it is clear that the project has been a learning curve for all involved, opening up difficult questions and fresh perspectives.

Aoife and Nick told *The Bugle* how the project so far has forced people out of their comfort zones and promoted the free exchange of opinions across the community. With *Becoming Brixton*, the team hope to have not only helped today's young people to gain a more nuanced understanding of the riots, but also to have provided a valuable learning resource for generations to come, with the films to be housed in the Black Cultural Archives.

The films are as varied as they are insightful. In one film, *My Riots*, footage of the 2011 riots is interwoven with a personal account of looting and regret, while another shows local novelist Alex Wheatle speaking candidly about his own experiences. In *Burning Anger*, the filmmakers ask whether there is a formula for disruptive protest and show an interview with journalist Symeon Brown who viewed the media as the "oxygen" feeding the fire of the 2011 riots.

*All of the documentaries and footage, as well as more information about the project, are available to view online at [www.becomingbrixton.com](http://www.becomingbrixton.com)*

# Capturing beautiful simplicity

Arts co-editor Ruth Waters takes a look at the latest exhibition at Photofusion, *Temporal Dislocation*.

Royal College of Art graduate and London-based photographer, James Smith, opened his first solo London exhibition at Brixton's Photofusion last week, *Temporal Dislocation*. James Smith's exhibition, on show until the beginning of March, follows the astounding popularity of Photofusion's Annual Members Salon 2012, which captured the imaginations of over 600 visitors during its 6-week exhibition.

*Temporal Dislocation*, a collection of eight large format images, takes the viewer on a journey through the British landscape, but without a shepherd, farmhouse or stream in sight. Far from rolling hills, the landscapes of James Smith's photographs are dominated by cumbersome, man-made constructions: electricity pylons, neatly piled crates, hay bales, multi-storey car parks and neatly aligned caravans are just some of his unlikely subjects.

Speaking to *The Bugle* James described how his photographs "hold up a mirror" to human interaction with the natural environment, and offer viewers a "pause for contem-

plation". A self confessed lover of brutalist architecture, James is really interested in functional structures, and finds a satisfying simplicity to images where the function of the object, even if now redundant, can easily be decoded. "It's easy to confuse people, whether that be through art or ideas," he says, "but what's really hard, and what I want my work to do, is to make things simple."

*Temporal Dislocation* shows the landscape, including man-made constructions, as being in a state of constant change. The viewer is left marveling both at the amazing lengths which human beings will go to to impose order on nature, and also dismayed at the utter pointlessness of all these efforts, as structures become redundant and landscapes are left fractured and scarred: in our throw-away culture what was yesterday's revolutionary structure is today's eyesore.

Delighted to be exhibiting at this "fantastic spring-board of a gallery", James loves the mix of professionals and amateurs, art and community, which Photofusion offers. He told *The Bugle* that whilst exhibiting "notable photographers and groundbreaking collections of work", Photofusion is "not pretentious in the slightest". James is eternally grateful to Gina Glover, photographer and founder of Photofusion, for inviting him to exhibit *Temporal Dislocation* and feels that the organisation as a whole offers invaluable support to up-and-coming photographers.

James Smith will be talking about his work and life as a photographer at Photofusion on 12 February.

»*Temporal Dislocation* will be exhibited until 8 March - entry is free.  
»Photofusion, 17A Electric Lane, SW9 8LA  
»Gallery open 11am - 5pm, Tues - Sun



Left, Watchtower 2011 by James Smith

## LITTLE BRIXTON



By Ruth Miller

Brixton used to be the home of many people associated with the theatre. Famous people like Stan Laurel, Charlie Chaplin, Dan Leno and Marie Lloyd all wandered our Brixton streets. Can we create the next generation of music and theatre stars?

Does your child love to sing? Do they like to dance around or love being in the limelight? Then Brixton has several classes on offer to bring out your child's inner performer.

Visit the Rec and check out the Performing Arts classes in the Energy Zone. Catering for kids age 4 through to 16, they run two sessions on Saturdays at £5 a class or £35 a term. Contact Pauly on 07899882557 or visit [www.xpozure.org.uk](http://www.xpozure.org.uk)

Head to the SWC world dance and movement studio at the Eurolink building on Effra Road, because Saturday afternoon is time for Street Jazz, aimed at ages 5-11, and Ballet for children aged 5-7. For more information, visit their website at [www.swcbrixton.com](http://www.swcbrixton.com).

Have a child under five who likes to bop? Then pop into Toddler Hip hop at Studio b, 130 Brixton Hill, SW2. This class runs on Thursday and Friday mornings at 10am to 10:45am. Visit the website [studioblondon.com](http://studioblondon.com) - for more details.

Studio b. also offers dance classes for older children. Diverse dance teaches a combination of Street Dance and Contemporary technique. They offer two classes to children, age 5 to 9 and 10 to 19, around mid-day on Saturdays. Lessons are £7 each.



There are also classes for young women on a Friday afternoon. Dare2dance teaches Street Dance moves for ages 14 to 22. Lessons are £5 or £3 concession. For more information, contact Judi on 020 8671 2402.

For teenagers interested in acting, Brixton Youth Theatre offers free workshops and master classes on Friday evening for ages 13-19 at Brixton Community Base, Talma Road, SW2. Contact 07770 461 781

For children who want to sing, Pegasus opera holds the Rising Star Singing Academy offering

free singing lessons for ages 8 to 11. Queries to 0207 501 9501 or email: donna@pegoopera.org

So take a look at all we have to offer! [www.littlelambeth.blogspot.com](http://www.littlelambeth.blogspot.com)

# VALENTINE'S DAY

[www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com)

# Where romance always blossoms



By Luke Massey

What would Valentine's Day be without the roses to give to our loved ones? (A corporate invention without flowers you say? You may be right.)

But luckily for the lovestruck, George Zucconi and his two sons John and Simon (identical twins no less!) have been purveying flowers for all occasions outside Brixton station for over 20 years.

In fact the exact number of years remained disputed when I spoke with them. George puts it at 23, but John challenged him: "Well I started here when I was 16 and I'm now..." Let's just say it made it more than 23 years.

It's a busy time of the year for florists - "red rose time" according to John, "everyone wants red roses". And coming out of the recent freeze it's warming to see such a splash of colour on the high street. Thinking it could be fruitful, I asked if he had any funny or

romantic anecdotes about people buying flowers for Valentine's Day: "Nope."

Who said that romance was dead eh?! So come on Brixton: pay the Zucconis a visit and give them a story to remember!



The stall, left, and John (or is it Simon?) Zucconi, right, with roses

SUNDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2013 8.30-LATE  
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DJ LANTAN / FREDERICA TIBBS  
HELEN ROGERS / ANDREW SLOLEY  
ROBBIE VALENTINE / MO THE COMEDIAN

## WIN tickets to the hottest Valentine event in town!

The Pre Valentine Lovers Rock Affair at Brixton Jamm, on Sunday February 10, features the finest Lovers Rock reggae and much more from an array of quality live artists and DJ's.

The organisers have kindly offered us two pairs of tickets to offer to readers as a prize. All you need to do to be in with a chance of winning is answer the following simple question.

Which Lovers Rock superstar had top a UK Top 10 hit in 1990 with a cover of Cat Stevens' 'Wild World'?

- a) Maxi Priest
- b) Tippa Irie
- c) Ken Boothe

Email your answer to [competitions@brixtonblog.com](mailto:competitions@brixtonblog.com) by February 4.

Pamela of the Duke - you have no idea how beautiful and funny you are. I wish more girls were like you and I wish you liked girls like me'

Anon

To the guy at Café Cairo Sat 21st Jan, with beard, wearing hat and make up. You gave me a red stamp, I would have preferred your number.

Siobhan with the fringe

To the bearded northerner @Spark who won cinema tickets. You were amazing. Anon

To the barman in Seven with the sellotaped glasses. Thanks for noticing me. Double Denim

You wore a Sixties' Technicolour Dreamcoat and yellow tights in Soho. we spoke later on the Brixton escalator but i never saw you again.

Biblical man

Do you recognise this encounter? Or met someone worth shouting about? Tweet us @ConnectBrixton or email [charley@brixtonblog.com](mailto:charley@brixtonblog.com) for an anonymous shout out.

Best connection wins a £25 bar tab at Kaff bar.

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# FOOD AND DRINK

[www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com)

## REVIEW: Brixton Space is eccentric, eclectic and ending soon

By Lindsay Faller

Brixton Water Lane: 10-minute walk from the centre of Brixton, gateway to Brockwell Park and Hootenanny territory. With the exception of Khan's and Montego Inn, both who have seemingly been in business since time began, many of the other restaurants and cafés on the Lane's little stretch of shops do not last. One relative newbie rooted it self quietly last year, and despite garnering a steady stream of fans whose personal recommendations acted as the restaurant's best advertising, it too will be closing for good in the near future.

From the outside, Brixton Space is welcoming and unassuming. Inside, the décor is similar to your favourite eccentric relative's front room – 70s wallpaper in brown and orange geometric patterns, an Arco-style floor lamp, low lighting and lots of cushions and stools. We were greeted on a particularly cold Tuesday evening by a sole manager, who not only served drinks, but prepared and served food from the small kitchen to the back of the restaurant.

The menu is eclectic. Nibbles that range from olives, pintxos of Serrano Ham and Manchego cheese, to Polish dry sausage Kabanos and gherkins, with the main offering described as "fusion tapas". Thai prawns, patatas bravas, quesadillas with hummus or sweet chilli chicken skewers. We opted to start with the pintxos and olives, then moved on to prawns cooked in white wine with garlic and parsley (gambas al ajillo), Spanish meatballs with pork and beef, patatas bravas



and a delicious-sounding pumpkin salad with rocket, mixed seeds and a honey-mustard dressing. There is also a relatively comprehensive selection of sherries to try, as well as wines, but my other half chose Cusqueña, a Peruvian lager. They also provide a range of

soft drinks, teas, coffees and stock a full bar.

The pintxos were instantly pleasing. Served on lightly toasted bread, the Serrano ham, a thinly sliced hit of cured porky goodness and buttery Manchego cheese were delicately accentuated with chopped herb tomatoes.

Wonderful. The olives were a mixed selection and no doubt would go down well with some sherry. Gambas al ajillo were tasty pearlescent little things, the holy combination of garlic and white wine mingled perfectly with the prawns. The meatballs were also decent and served in a rich tomato sauce; perfect for dipping the delicious olive bread that accompanied them.

The pumpkin salad was as sprightly as the menu promised. A large plate of roasted pumpkin and rocket was lightly tossed in a tangy mustardy dressing; the mixed nuts adding a nice little crunch. Brixton Space's version of patatas bravas was a refreshing take on the traditional. A creamy spicy sauce is to be expected in this dish, but it was served with a fresh salsa as well, which gave a normally quite heavy dish a much-needed lift.

The menu is reasonably priced and portion sizes are generous. In truth, we probably over-ordered, although everything was really very good, so I shan't complain. Brixton has clearly become a destination for foodies and it was refreshing to find a restaurant outside of the centre interested in serving great food. Brixton Space will stay open until a buyer is found so make it a priority to visit while you can. The vibe is relaxed and the food is great, but sadly, this gem of a place isn't going to be there for long.

Brixton Space, 30 Water Lane  
Tel: 020 7501 8606  
Meal for two, excluding tip £29



## FIVE OF THE BEST

Miss South shows us around her Brixton foody hotspots

**BEST LUXURY FEEL:** Anything at Etta's Seafood Kitchen. What could be more sophisticated than taking yourself out for lunch and dining on seafood? Whether you start with the light as air crab fritters, or a few oysters or some Jamaican spice infused mussels, don't miss the seafood linguine for main. And Etta's so friendly she'd probably let you bring some bubbles to toast it all with.

**BEST VEGETARIAN MEAL:** I admit, I'm not much of a veggie diner. I like my forays out for meals to be meaty. I'm happy to eat flesh free at home a lot of the time, but usually I like to go carnivore when dining out. The exception are the tofu and dill dumplings at Mama Lan's. Tiny pearls of smoky five spice infused tofu nestle inside fresh aniseedy dill for a light moreish dumpling of heaven.

**BEST DESSERT:** The Dime Bar cheesecake at Brixton Village Grill. In a world where cheesecake is usually a sad shadow of a Philadelphia ad, your mind will be blown by the homemade mascarpone rich monument to Scandi chocolate that the Grill offers up. Big enough to share without fighting and drizzled with homemade caramel sauce, it is so rich and creamy with a perfect cheese to base ratio that this carnivore rated it as good if not better than the (excellent) meat!

**BEST MARKET STALL:** A close one, but even the greengrocer under the bridge on Pope's Road and the Sunday morning veg extravaganza at the Farmers' Market and are beaten by the choice, quality and craic at Dagon's fishmongers in Brixton Village. There selling their wares since the place was Granville Arcade, they've been serving up seriously good wet fish at a great price and some serious banter for years. Fin...

**BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE:** I generally find Brixton super friendly once you get past its (outdated) reputation and slightly overwhelming feel. Lots of places are very pleasant, happy to help and extremely welcoming. My favourite place for customer service is the A&C Continental Deli on Atlantic Road (ie: the Portuguese deli). Not big enough for everyone who wishes to use it, it is delightfully old fashioned with most of the stock behind the counter so you get one of the staff all to yourself at your beck and call as you stock up on quinces, pumpkin wedges, cured meats, garlic stuffed olives and manchego. No matter how busy it gets I never feel rushed in there. I've never found something they don't stock. I've also never said no to a pasteis de nata when I'm in there either...

More at [www.northsouthfood.com](http://www.northsouthfood.com)



### February Dinner

#### Starters

Cauliflower and Lancashire Cheese Soup (v)	5.00
Black Watch Scotch Egg with Rhubarb Chutney	5.75
Rabbit Rillettes with Pickled Black Grapes	6.25
Severn & Wye Smoked Salmon, Pickled Candy Beetroot, Rye Bread & Lemon	6.50

#### British and Spanish Charcuterie

Small Charcuterie Plate with Pickled Vegetables & Sourdough Bread	6.95
Large Charcuterie Plate, plus Bermondsey Spa Cheese	12.95

#### Mains

Halloumi Burger Tomato Relish Triple cooked Chips (v)	9.50
Dry Aged, Rare Breed Beef Burger in a Brioche Bun with Triple Cooked Chips	10.00
Leek & Cearphilly Sausages with Celery Straws, Mashed Potato and Red Wine Gravy (v)	12.50
Smoked Haddock & Loch Duart Salmon Fish Pie, Braised Cabbage & Bacon	15.50
Shoulder of Saltmarsh Lamb braised in Meantime Pale Ale with Pearl Barley, Kale and Heritage Carrots	16.00
Free Range Guinea Fowl cooked in Red Wine with Mashed Potato and Purple Sprouting Broccoli	16.50

#### Desserts

Cranberry and Apple Pie with Cinnamon Ice Cream	6.00
Ginger Chocolate Pot	6.00
Cardamon Panna cotta with Yorkshire Rhubarb Compote	6.00
Bermondsey Spa Cheese, Biscuits and Fig Chutney	4.50

Brockwell Lido, Dulwich Road, SE24 0PA

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# SPORT

[www.brixtonblog.com](http://www.brixtonblog.com)


Clockwise from top: Jubilation, Jakub Klima winds up and Joe Allen gets treatment for a bust lip. Pics by Rick Webb Photographic

## Redskins scalp the southern Devils

By David Carr

Streatham Redskins made it six home league wins in a row with a hard fought 7-5 win over the Solent & Gosport Devils in Brixton.

The home side had to bounce back immediately from a heavy 14-3 cup loss in Chelmsford the night before and were boosted by star import Jakub Klima passing a late fitness test prior to the game.

After suffering a shock defeat to the Devils down on the South Coast last month, Streatham were determined to seek revenge on the bottom placed team.

The evening began as it was to continue as Streatham's Russ Stevens was given an early charging penalty for a big hit on a Devils defenceman in the corner. The Devils powerplay failed to test Will Sanderson in the Streatham goal and Streatham killed it off.

Streatham then appeared to score an opener as Joe Johnston finished a good pass from the corner, but then as the two teams prepared to face off in centre ice, the two officials consulted each other and decided that in the build up, an

icing should have been called (but wasn't blown) and then promptly disallowed the goal to the ire of the home side.

Streatham continued to pressure from the restart but with six minutes gone the visitors took the lead.

Lively Redskins forward Joe Allen required medical attention for a split lip after his big mid ice hit on Johnson saw his face catch on the Solent forwards' face cage.

After failing to make a breakthrough in the first despite plenty of possession, Streatham started the second with renewed vigour but found themselves shorthanded again. This time it was Hopkins who was called for a big hit on the boards as the officials endeared themselves to the home crowd once more.

More sloppy penalties from Streatham took away any momentum and the game became quite scrappy with neither team looking particularly dangerous.

The game threatened to get nasty as Redskins forward Jamie McIlroy and Devils defenseman Will Francis clashed in the corner, however

the Devils player coach declined the Scots' offer to drop the gloves in centre ice.

At 5-3 up the Redskins looked like they might run away with the game but Solent took advantage of another powerplay to reduce the deficit thanks to an effort from the hardworking Nembhard.

Klima spotting Allen unmarked on the far post and the battered and bruised centre man fired home first time to spark scenes of celebration.

Solent pulled Taylor for an extra skater in the final minute as they desperately sought an equaliser but Klima punished them again, intercepting the puck on the red line and sending his wrist shot perfectly into the centre of the net to make it 7-5 to Streatham.

It was a cruel blow to the Devils who had battled hard to get back into the game but ultimately Streatham deserved the two points, even if they made life more difficult for themselves taking a total of twenty four minutes in minor penalties across the game.

»[www.streatham-redskins.co.uk](http://www.streatham-redskins.co.uk)

## IN FOCUS: Windrush Triathlon Club

By Laura Addis

Windrush Triathlon club was founded in 2008 as a multisport club where our members focus on swimming, cycling and running, the three components of triathlon which is the fastest growing sport in the UK.

We are a very friendly local club and are based at Brockwell Park and Lido, just a few meters from Herne Hill station. We have a wide range of members of varying ages and levels of fitness, from those who are complete beginners and need to build fitness to others who have been racing for years. Our welcoming attitude means new members find it very easy to make friends, get fit and have fun.

Windrush members can be found training at many locations across the area and potential new

members can try a session free before signing up. We swim in Brockwell Lido during the spring to autumn and in the winter at the Clapham and JAGS pools. As long as you can swim a couple of lengths you are welcome to come along and can be taught to swim front crawl efficiently and with ease. We also run trips to local open water venues such as Heron Lake. Throughout the year we run a very popular spin session at the Brockwell gym, and take our members out on their bikes on a Sunday on rides varying in length from loops of Richmond Park to stunning scenery in the Kent and Surrey countryside. Running training happens at the Battersea track and at the Brockwell parkrun as well as cross country escapades. Last but no means least we hold Pilates sessions, run semi-

nars on everything from nutrition to bike maintenance, run a training camp in Spain and take part in friendly competitions against other local clubs.

In 2012 Windrush held our extremely successful Aquathlon race, which consisted of a 500m swim and a 5km run at Brockwell Park. The weather was amazing and we had a large number of entries from the local community and London sports clubs. Due to the success of the race and the generous sponsorship from local businesses and charities we will be back with an even better race on 2nd June 2013. <http://www.windrushtri.co.uk/page/windrush-aquathlon>

Windrush isn't all about training and racing and we have regular socials in local cafes and pubs, as well as our annual Christmas party and

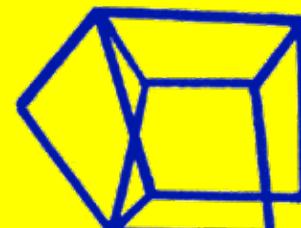


**WINDRUSH:** club members at an event. Picture by Craig Mercer  
awards ceremony which celebrates all the wonderful achievements of our members, ranging from appearances in World Championships to the best wipe-out during a race! Windrush is accredited with British Triathlon and all of our coaches are trained by them. Our chairperson even won the national award for volunteering in 2011-2012 for running Windrush and bringing the club into the strong position it is today with over 200 members and a thriving club atmosphere. For more information just visit [www.windrushtri.co.uk](http://www.windrushtri.co.uk)



Club members at Brockwell Lido. Picture by Quintina Valero

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