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the BRIXTON Bugle

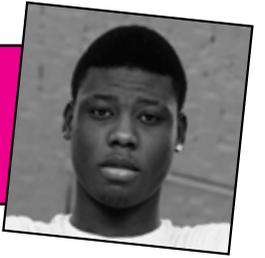
Little Brother to **BRIXTONBlog.com**



STAR TREK TICKETS
Competition p14

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HEAVYWEIGHTS
Miguel's Gym p20



MAY 2013

Residents forced from homes **INSIDE...**

Council claims block poses 'intolerable' fire safety risk

BY ZOE JEWELL, EDITOR

Residents of 16 flats in a long-term housing co-operative in central Brixton are to be forced from their homes following a surprise fire inspection.

Members of the Carlton Mansions Housing Co-operative (CMHC), founded in 1979, have been told to leave the 122-year-old building immediately, after a fire report advised the building was unsafe. The council demanded "residents vacate the building as a priority."

But residents have hit back at the council saying the fire risk assessment states it "is subjective and for guidance only." They say they were told on the phone prior to the visit that it "would be advisory only."

Shocked cooperative members met with The Bugle last week. One member who has lived in Carlton Mansions for 29 years said: "How can anyone decamp so quickly when they're a long-term resident? You've got everything registered at that address, you're in London so storage space is at a premium. How is it actually practically possible?" Another member spoke of the severe emotional stress caused by the council's actions and has now been referred to the Mental Health Team as a result.

A spokesperson from Lambeth Housing department said: "the council is obliged to ensure its buildings meet relevant health

and safety regulations regardless of their age. The council has a duty of care to residents and we cannot ignore such a clear recommendation from a fire risk assessment."

Ward councillor Rachel Heywood said: "I have to be clear that we cannot allow anybody to continue to live in a building... that has been judged to be 'intolerable' in terms of fire risk. So soon after the inquest into Lakanal House... we are only too aware of the responsibility of local authorities to ensure the safety of citizens to the greatest possible degree."

"We are doing everything we can to support them. This includes the possibility of temporarily rehousing everybody into a single building", she said. CMHC had not been informed of this possibility when asked by The Bugle.

The fire risk assessment identifies lack of 'compartmentalisation' - to stop a fire spreading from flat to flat - as one problem in the mansion blocks.

The Co-operative has offered to do all it can to fulfil safety standards but the council states this will not be enough. CMHC also pointed out that the floors are solid timber and that the walls between the flats are thick brick. The building has never been damaged by fire. CMHC is now seeking independent advice.

The Co-op started life 32 years ago on a temporary agreement with the council as short life housing. A member said: "This was an experi-



FIRE RISK: Residents have been ordered to leave immediately. Inset, ward councillor Rachel Heywood called the fire risk 'intolerable'

ment in using what would be considered small amounts of money to make a place habitable, rather than totally refurbishing a place."

"It was done on the self-help basis which means that the people who were going to live there did most of the work themselves." At one stage, the Co-operative gave the council 50% of allocation to people on the housing list.

The short life arrangements

have allowed for historic buildings in Brixton to be maintained. One member said: "When we put our heating on it keeps the buildings warm... We've kept the heritage and then they can sell it off."

The Co-operative was also responsible for the painting of the Nuclear Dawn mural, now a celebrated Brixton landmark.

More recently, the residents and *Continued on p6*



Baking for Brixton

A bake-off is one of dozens of off-beat events covered in our double page listings pullout, we've sorted your entertainment for May

What's On p10-11



Great adventure

Luke Massey looks at the history of London's oldest adventure playground, Triangle, as spring approaches. *Features, p7*



Market proposal

Resident and neighbour of Market Row, Richard Pope, gives his three point plan for the future of Brixton's covered markets. *Analysis, p7*



Picture: Nick Weedon

Mural project climax

The finishing touches are being put on an inspirational community mural in the shadow of Brixton Windmill.

Work began on the artwork on April 10, with artist and designer Camila Cardenosa working with local residents, friends and inmates from Brixton Prison.

Locals are invited to lend a hand painting on April 27 and 28, before the final unveiling of the mural at Windmill Gardens on May 6.

The party will include music and activities suitable for all the family. Brixton Windmill will be open for free guided tours.

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The Brixton Bugle & BrixtonBlog.com are edited in Brixton by Zoe Jewell and Tim Dickens.

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

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Circulation: 9,000 copies
Readership: circa 15,000

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

ROLL OF HONOUR ISSUE TEN

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Pensioner stung by £1,000 fines for sun-faded permit

A disabled pensioner has hit out at Lambeth council for chasing nearly £1,000 for unpaid fines after his disabled permit was faded by the sun.

Hugh Francis-Courtney, 74, was visited twice last month by bailiffs representing Lambeth. On one occasion he had to pay £430 after his van was left clamped outside his street for more than a week. On another the bailiff said he owed in the region of a further £600.

Mr Francis-Courtney said: "I have severe arthritis and I've had two knee operations, what do they expect me to do? I think it's bang out of order for the council to treat me like this."

The pensioner was given a string of parking tickets in August last year outside his home in Winterwell Road, Brixton, after the sun bleached the word "Lambeth" from his permit. He hadn't noticed the tickets as he was housebound following his latest knee operation.

When he appealed the tickets, Lambeth cancelled some, but refused the appeal on two others. Francis-Courtney said he appealed again with no response, and heard nothing until



UPSET: Mr Courtney with his van

being visited by bailiffs showed up at his door last month.

Cllr Imogen Walker, cabinet member for parking, said the council had a duty to stamp out disabled parking permit fraud.

She added: "In this particular case the badge was faded and it was Mr Francis-Courtney's responsibility to return it to us as part of the regulations of their use. Had he contacted us, we would have been happy to supply a new one, and this whole ticketing process could have been avoided. It is vital that if people experience diffi-

culties with their badges they keep in touch with us and we will do our very best to help.

"But given the situation in which we were not asked for a replacement and not contacted by Mr Francis-Courtney after he unsuccessfully appealed his tickets, we were left with no option but to pursue the matter further. I'm glad to hear that Mr Francis-Courtney has now finally had his blue badge replaced. As a gesture of good will we have cancelled all the tickets."

Sainsbury's gets booze licence

Lambeth council has granted a licence for a new Sainsbury's supermarket on Tulse Hill.

A planning sub-committee, meeting at Lambeth Town Hall passed the application, despite 148 objections from local residents. The store will be able to sell alcohol between 7am and midnight, seven days per week.

The supermarket is due to open on the site of Carpetright and Topps Tiles stores, at the junction with Brixton Water Lane, later this year.

Objector David Woods told

the Blog that he had expected the licence to be granted because objections were not about the sale of alcohol, but about the impact of a supermarket on the area.

He said: "Objecting to the license was the only formal mechanism left for us to use, and it was still very valuable as it made Sainsbury's aware of the serious concerns of a large number of residents."

The supermarket will now meet with Lambeth highways department to discuss the costs

of putting in a crossing on Water Lane to improve safety.

Tim Fairhurst of the Josephine Avenue Group (JAG) said the weight of public objections helped to shape the conditions imposed on the licence.

Lisa Poyser, from Sainsbury's, told The Brixton Bugle the "prominent retail site" will create 100 jobs for local people.

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

Help needed for soup kitchen

A former support worker has launched a soup kitchen to support the growing number of people sleeping rough in Brixton.

Solomon Smith set up the Brixton Soup Kitchen in Southwyck House in January. He and a small team of volunteers rely on donations to provide food, hot drinks, advice and support to homeless people.

Speaking of his reasons behind setting it up, Solomon told the Bugle: "we found that most soup kitchens were run by religious centres and people felt bad having to pretend to pray to get food. So we decided to open a soup kitchen that people, whether they are Sikh, Muslim or not religious, could come and eat at."

Solomon, a lifetime resident of Southwyck House, and an-

other volunteer, Diane Ade-nuga, decided to approach the Tenants and Residents Association for help and they offered to let him use the community centre for free.

Since January, the soup kitchen has been open all day Monday to Friday and Solomon approximates they receive 35-40 visitors of all ages a day. The kitchen has people from all over London, from Westminster to Camden, coming in for support.

"It's crazy when you speak to people and see their experiences and how they have become homeless" said Solomon. "Some used to have successful business, but now have lost their business or their job and are homeless, many people suffer from depression because they can't get work. It's really opened

my eyes and it's made me realise that anyone could become homeless in a day."

The Brixton Soup Kitchen is looking to expand and would like to provide employment support services, such as job searching and CV building. So far the Prince's Trust have helped them, but the kitchen is always looking for more support and donations.

Solomon Smith can be contacted on solomonsmith2012@hotmail.co.uk or 07538419514.

KIND: Solomon Smith, right, started the Brixton Soup Kitchen. Pic - Alistair Hall



Man, 26, accused of party murder

A man has been charged with shooting dead 23-year-old Jerome Edwards at a party in Southwell Road, Loughborough Junction.

Clleon Smith, 26, of Hichison Road, SE15, was charged with murder on April 18, as well as the attempted murder of a second man, shot in the ankle outside the party, and possession of a gun.

Police and ambulance services were called to the first floor flat just before 5am on April 14 after receiving reports of a man with gunshot wounds. The victim was rushed to hospital but died several hours later.

A second man arrested in connection with the investigation, aged 31, has been bailed to return to a south London police station in late May pending further enquiries.

Bowie bag honour

A bag-making company in central Brixton was given the chance earlier this year to make the bags for a David Bowie exhibition.

The tote bags featuring former Brixton boy Bowie were produced by WBC and sold like hot cakes.

"The V&A called up in a blind panic saying they were shifting them faster than expected", said WBC director James Hayward.

When they were sent the artwork, the company was sworn to secrecy as the exhibition had not yet been announced. "We were desperate to tell everyone. We didn't know about the album - that was very well guarded."

They are looking to get more involved with local businesses and artists.



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Council mix-up delays supermarket pub plan

BY TIM DICKENS, EDITOR

A string of planning applications by Tesco over the George IV pub have been deferred by councillors, after a mix-up left a planning committee discussing the wrong plans.

Confusion reigned at Lambeth Town Hall on Tuesday evening, as a conservation planning officer told a meeting that the plans they were discussing for the proposed Express store were the wrong ones.

He claimed that graphics being projected on to the wall of Room 8 were an older version of the proposed shop front, and that newer plans more sympathetic to the heritage of the Victorian pub had been drawn up.

Councillors promptly voted to defer all applications to a later meeting to allow them, and objectors, to consult the newer plans for the store.

Bill Linskey, chair of Brixton Society, spoke against the applications. He told Brixton Blog after the

meeting: "It's only a postponement, but every little helps!"

"I can't understand why it's happened, but things do go wrong from time to time and I'm glad the committee made a responsible decision tonight and deferred the decision."

The proposals were for a new shopfront, the installation of a ramp to the front of the store, advertising consent and new power plants at the back of the building. The bid had been called in for scrutiny at the meeting by Brixton Hill councillor Alex Holland.

Earlier Linskey had told councillors how plans for the supermarket fascia were inappropriate.

He said: "You've got a a completely architecturally illiterate change to the frontage, you've got a hideous ramp zig-zagging like a scar across the front of the building. All at ground floor level right in your face."

"It will completely ruin the appearance of this splendid old building. These proposals are complete-



EVERY LITTLE HELPS: Campaigners gather against the Tesco store

ly unacceptable in a conservation area."

Andrew Child, co-founder of the Save George IV group, said: "We've had more than 3,000 signatures on a petition against this, and Chuka Umunna has supported us and he says that this Tesco store is not wanted or needed."

A visibly angry agent for Tesco objected to the deferral of the applications, and was upset that the committee chairman did not give

him an opportunity to speak before ending the discussion on the item.

Previously, Matt Maggee, from Tesco, had told Brixton Blog that the store will create a number of local jobs. He said: "This is a building owned by a private developer who wants to let the space as a shop. It has not been run successfully as a business for some time. We think it will be a popular store."

The planning applications will be considered at a later date.

Market stars in party broadcast

Traders from Brixton's covered market feature in the latest party political broadcast from the Labour Party.

The video features people from Granville Arcade and Market Row going around their daily business. It was broadcast on national television last month.



LISTINGS LAUNCH

The big brother of The Bugle, the Brixton Blog, is to launch a comprehensive online What's On guide for the town. The section will launch in early May at www.brixtonblog.com

Gruelling challenge from A to Z



Lucy Hurn

BY CHARLOTTE LATIMER

Not content with doing just one fundraising event, one Brixton resident has decided to do a challenge for every letter of the alphabet.

The latest letter completed by

Lucy Hurn, 36, from Brixton Hill, was 'E' when she ran the East London Half Marathon last month.

So far Lucy has completed a challenge for 8 different letters leaving another 18 to go. One particularly tough challenge was the Xtreme Xmas swim, where she bravely swam in Brockwell Lido in December to get 'X' under her belt.

Lucy told the Brixton Bugle: "It's not the races that the hardest, but motivating yourself to do the training, especially when the weather is like this! I love that the Brixton Blog has a running club, it's always better to run with other people, although so far I've only managed to make it along a few times. Swimming in the Lido in mid December was also pretty painful!"

Lucy said she got the idea for the challenge at a Christmas party for the World Development Movement, and said the plan blossomed from there,

Follow Lucy's challenge online at looocceyabcde.wordpress.com

Merry-making

More than 700 people came together to celebrate Brixton's making, art and craft scene at a creative festival organised by Makerhood at the Brixton East Gallery.

The day-long event, Making Uncovered, was showcased the talent and skills of local artisans and was organised by Makerhood.com.

Visitors got a chance to see the processes behind handmade arts and crafts, with over 16 disciplines on show

Kristina Glushkova, the co-founder and director of Makerhood project said "It's been so wonderful to see the community coming together to celebrate local crafters, share skills, and have a fun time together. We're hugely grateful to everyone who helped us make this event happen - all the volunteers, sponsors, and the Brixton East gallery team."



CREATIVE: Makers join a workshop at Brixton East

There were workshops running during the day, a programme of talks on making and an evening celebration with live music, dance improvisations, and a performance by south London's 24-strong pop-up choir.

Makerhood.com is a social enterprise that promotes making and skills in south London. The event was supported by local businesses who helped cover the event's costs

- gifts shop Diverse Gifts, packaging company WBC and the Brixton Station Road market team.

Ben Willis, a Brixton woodworker who took part in and helped organise the event, said: "Making Uncovered was well worth all the hard work - a really amazing event that will live long in my memory. Everyone who took part in and came to the event really entered in to the spirit of the occasion and made it

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NEWS

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Children, disabled and poor hardest hit by town hall cuts

BY KAYE WIGGINS,
POLITICS EDITOR

The poorest and most vulnerable people in Brixton are likely to be hit the hardest by council spending cuts, an internal report seen by the Brixton Bugle reveals.

The document, seen by the Bugle, reveals how Lambeth council cut almost £19m from local services in a single year after losing government funding. It involved reducing pothole inspections and cutting back on playgrounds, arts, community sports, school holiday activities and community festivals.

Those more likely to be affected by council cuts include "the financially vulnerable, disabled and

children and young people", according to the report, commissioned to examine the impact of proposed cuts before they were passed by full council.

In the document, Rachel Heywood, cabinet member for communities and community safety said: "The process of setting a budget in the context of the toughest financial settlement in living memory has been an extremely difficult one, the task of setting a fair budget almost impossible." She said the Government was forcing Lambeth to cut spending by a third over three years.

Cllr Heywood added: "We have therefore been forced to stop, review or transform a number of our services and this will inevitably impact on residents."

Some of the reductions, such as cuts to street cleaning on quieter roads, a £750,000 cut to the libraries budget and a plan to bring in smaller wheelie bins in a bid to cut the amount of waste that is produced, will affect a large proportion of residents.

Others – such as the loss of free travel passes for people using men-



VULNERABLE: Pensioners protesting against cuts last year

tal health services and proposals to reduce specialist housing for pregnant teenagers – will hit vulnerable residents hardest.

The Bugle asked to see the list of cutbacks following an announcement by Lambeth council in February that 34% of its total £51m in cuts in 2011/12 – totalling £17m – had been made by "reducing some service levels to acceptable levels

without compromising quality or our statutory duties".

Of the rest, it said, £32m came from reductions to its own management and its "back office" functions. It said just £1.5m of the cuts came from stopping services altogether.

Lambeth council estimates that its government funding will fall by 45% between 2010/11 and 2016/17.



Bins to halve in size in bid to cut waste

Councillors have approved plans to bring in smaller wheelie bins and food waste collections for Brixton residents, in a bid to cut the amount of waste that is produced.

Residents will be given new bins that are just over half the size of the current wheelie bins.

From October, all low-rise households will also be expected to use two new food waste bins, a small indoor one and a larger outdoor one. These will be emptied once a week, although households will have to buy their own liners for them.

A report said Lambeth residents put 9,500 tonnes of recyclable material into refuse bins every year, with the borough lagging behind other London areas for recycling rates.

It added that bringing in smaller wheelie bins would cost £950,000 as a start-up cost, but save £415,000 per year in disposal costs.



From lollipop ladies to libraries: How swingeing cuts are hurting

In 2011/12 Lambeth was forced to cut £41m from its budget, here we take a blow by blow look at where the axe fell:

£314,000 by reducing the frequency of pothole inspections

£700,000 by reducing the opening hours of 7 council-managed adventure playgrounds

£45,000 by not funding an Easter activities programme and reducing summer holidays programme by 12%

£20,000 by stopping funding celebrations for "significant equality and diversity dates"

£140,000 by increasing the charge for the storage of personal belongings when people move into temporary accommodation.

£528,000 by "changing residents' behaviour to waste disposal". Includes halving size of wheelie bins.

£1m by reducing street cleaning. The council will "focus on high foot fall areas"

£150,000 by stopping the school crossing patrol service

£2m by trying to make sure people pay debts to the council

£130,000 by charging for the use of sports pitches and crematoria

£40,000 by reducing arts development funding

£100,000 by reducing funds for community sports

£100,000 by stopping a range of community programmes including a faith engagement programme, a "peace on the streets" scheme, and a "celebrating age" festival

£448,000 by stopping freedom passes for 720 people mental health service users

£750,000 with a "review of library provision"

55% cut from teenage pregnancy housing budget, with 50 residential units at risk

£240,000 by closing supported housing for people recovering from alcohol and drug addiction

£1.23m with a reduction in social work jobs

£115,000 by closing "traditional public toilets"

£400,000 by stopping the park rangers service

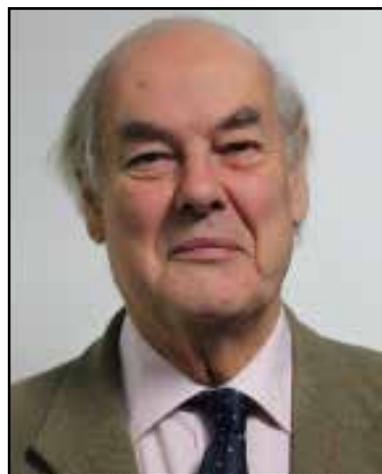
Residents back bid for 100 more cops

More than 2,000 people in Lambeth have now backed the campaign to get the borough 100 more police to ensure community safety. Lambeth lost 214 officers, or 20 per cent of its force, between May 2010 and December 2012 – the biggest percentage cut of any London borough.

Cllr Jack Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Neighbourhoods, said safety was Lambeth resident's number one concern, which is why community involvement and support for the campaign has been so strong.

He said: "I am determined to keep up the fight to get the borough adequately policed, and to get a fair deal for residents. Every day more and more people in the borough are backing this campaign simply because it is so important."

More at www.lambeth.gov.uk



MERCHANT BANKER: Cherry

Cllr quits over 'racist' comments about Brixton pupils

A Tory councillor who said ethnic minority pupils from Lambeth were not welcome in a picturesque Sussex village has resigned from the Conservative Party after widespread condemnation of his comments.

The highly successful Durand Academy, Stockwell, wants to start a boarding school for 600 teenagers from the Brixton area at a disused school site in the village of Stedham, West Sussex.

But according to an article in the Mail on Sunday, Sussex county councillor John Cherry, said:

"Ninety-seven per cent of pupils will be black or Asian. It depends what type of Asian. If they're Indian they'll rise to the top. If they're Pakistani they won't."

Cherry also said the children, who will stay at the school from Monday to Friday, would try and escape, turning the forest into a "sexual volcano".

Referring to Stockwell as a "coloured area", he added: "To be honest, I would far rather Durand took over a secondary school in London rather than shoving everybody here."

Cherry stood down from the Tory party on the day his comments were published, apologising for his "thoughtless and extremely foolish" remarks.

Lee Jasper, former race relations advisor to the Mayor of London, had earlier called for Cherry to be expelled from the Tory party. He told *The Brixton Bugle*: "This type of unreconstructed racism is frankly disgusting. David Cameron must throw this bigoted and offensive Councillor out of the Tory Party."

Cllr John Cherry, 73, is a former merchant banker who was edu-

cated at the prestigious Wellington College, where fees today cost £31,500 per year.

A spokesman for the education minister Michael Gove said: "Durand's boarding school is a bold experiment and a chance to give inner-city youngsters a truly world-class education."

Labour MP Kate Hoey, whose Vauxhall constituency contains the academy, said on Twitter: "I invite Cllr Cherry to visit Durand Academy in Stockwell to meet those who will be boarding. Stedham will gain hugely from their presence."



BMX back on track

Work has re-started on a revamp of the Brockwell BMX track.

Although the major work on the track finished at the end of March, the project had gone on much longer than expected because of the bad weather, which made it hard to get equipment on the site.

A council spokesman said: "Volunteers from The Brixton BMX Club, who helped design the project, are now finishing off further improvement by laying a special gravel surface. We have put up protective fencing around the track until the volunteers' work is finished. The project did face delay but we are through that now and should soon see riders taking advantage of this greatly improved track."

Early morning noise nuisance

Residents say they are fed up with early morning noise from waterworks, but that the council isn't doing enough to help.

Corinne Shields, who lives in Weldwork Mews, near Brixton Hill, says she is woken as early as 6am every weekday. She added: "The noise of heavy vehicles reversing, scraping of machinery on piles of rubble and general annoying noise that is most ungodly at that hour."

"We've contacted the council on several occasions to no avail, they basically are just ignoring us and it's been going on for as long as I can remember, sometimes weekends too."

Cllr Jack Hopkins, cabinet member for safer and neighbourhoods, said: "The site is used by Thames Water contractors and we are aware of resident's concerns. Our noise service has told Thames Water and its contractors that they must work with us, and residents, to find ways of improving the situation."

Wheelie good: people's kitchen goes mobile

BY BOBBIE LAKHERA

A project that turns unwanted food items into tasty meals plans to design and build their very own mobile kitchen.

The Brixton People's Kitchen, founded by Fan Sissoko and Camilla Marshall, produces tasty meals from food surplus donated by local outlets and markets. Those in the know have been attending their monthly events at Myatt's Fields Park, Brixton, since they started in December 2011.

Now, the team want to take their food fixtures on the road, helping more people come together to reduce food waste while cooking up a storm.

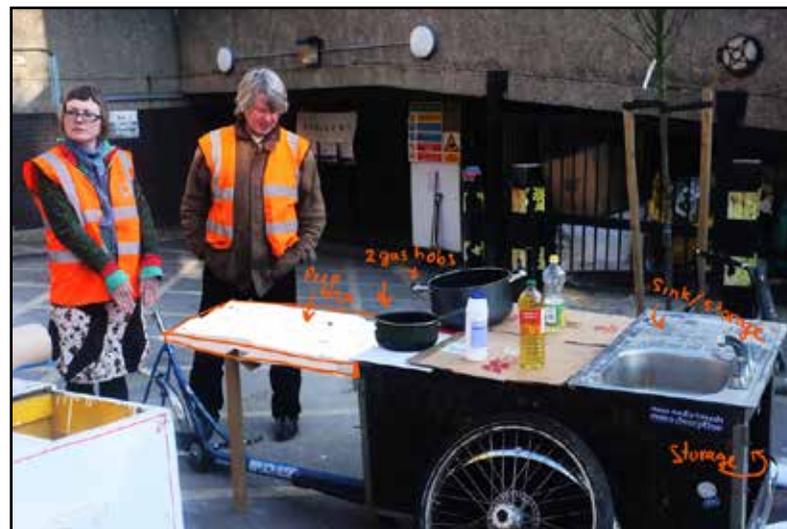
The idea came from a volunteer who had seen a mobile kitchen elsewhere and suggested that they could build the same. The plan is to hold one mobile event a month at each of four different sites across Lambeth.

Camilla told The Bugle: "So many different people come to the events, a lot already interested in food waste and cooking. We hope the mobile kitchen will increase inclusivity. We want to engage with people who do not know we exist or wouldn't look us up."

The team submitted the idea for the Nesta Waste Reduction Challenge. From an original shortlist of 20 projects, they have made it to the final six. Each project receives £10,000 to test their idea over a six months period and, at the end, the idea that demonstrates the most success will be awarded a £50,000 prize.

Camilla explained: "It's really exciting but we are up against some big projects that are reducing waste by tonnes rather than our few kilograms! Our plan, however, is about people sharing skills and knowledge. We want to use the kitchen as a starting point to create events around it. Each site we plan to go to is unique, and we want the events to feel special because they are created by the people who live there."

Fan added: "What's excellent about being in Brixton is there are so many groups doing such differ-



ON A ROLL: Brixton People's Kitchen (top) are converting a bicycle into a mobile feast maker. Above left, founder Fan Sissoko cooks up a treat. All pictures thanks to Brixton People's Kitchen

ent things here. If there is something you don't know, it's fantastic how many people are ready to offer their time and share their expertise, all for free."

The group is also working with the Lambeth Youth Offending Service, which liked the idea

of the design and cooking, teaching young people new skills and getting them to share their own ideas.

A big celebration of the new mobile kitchen will be at Myatt's Fields Park on Sunday April 28. There will be live music and a film being

shown, as well as the most important ingredient for a Brixton People's Kitchen event – fantastic food.

To find out the latest on the mobile kitchen visit brixtonpk.wordpress.com or Tweet @BrixtonPK.

MISSING MOGGIES: Cleo



This month's missing moggy is Cleo, left, a 3-year-old brown and cream Siamese cat.

Cleo was last seen at her home in Mervan Road, central Brixton, at midnight on April 20.

Her owners told the Bugle they have searched everywhere for the "adventurous" feline.

Sam Scriven said: "She is an adventurous and friendly and much loved brown and white seal point Siamese cat."

The owners are so keen to get Cleo back home that they've offered a slap-up lunch to anyone who can bring her back to them.

Anyone with information should call Sam on 07941 370 948 or email Sam@Scriven.biz.

Cleo, spayed and micro-chipped, comes to a whistle sound.

MediaTrust | Local 360 Network | LOTTERY FUNDED

Get involved to start telling your story

Creativity under threat: Carlton Mansions

On one side of Coldharbour Lane, outside Granville Arcade, a couple are standing and taking a photo. The building they are interested in is a majestic Victorian mansion block, built in 1891 and especially noticeable because it stands alone, with a fading glamour, the railway on one side and the eighties Southwyck House on the other. In that building live the residents of the Carlton Mansions Housing Co-operative, now threatened with eviction after thirty-two years. Many are professional artists; others work in jobs ranging from retail to community activism. The members have impacted Brixton in unquantifiable ways; voracious in their love for living here, they are well known at community meetings, get involved in council consultations, protect Brixton's murals and are an integral part of what now 'sells' Brixton – its diversity, its artistic streak, its political history. With their existence under threat (see page 1), Zoe Jewell talks to some of the current residents



Madeleine
Madeleine's flat is filled with beautifully coloured glass - she is an artist who makes lights and chandeliers out of reclaimed materials. She came to London in the 1970s aged 18 to study art, champing at the bit to get to the city and fascinated by the punk scene here.

Madeleine was at Goldsmiths at the same time as Damien Hirst. "I used to bump into him because he lived in the Barrier Block for a short period." She is very much inspired by the Brixton environment and had her first exhibition here in 1994 in a space on Acre Lane. "I find materials here and in the market. It's a fantastic, stimulating place to live." Her work has been sold everywhere, featuring in the British Council collection, galleries in Tokyo and even Penhaligon's Perfumers. "I don't want my work to scream 'I'm a load of old things' at you - very often people don't realize what the components are at first glance, they just see a chandelier."



Madeleine, pictured above, has loved living in a co-operative. This particular one, it is clear, is built on solid foundations - no tales here of squabbling that one might sometimes find in a co-op. "Here we really do look after each other, because we're a co-op which has had to work together and we know each other from having meetings together." When one member - Julian Wall - fell ill years ago, people

Painted and carpeted his flat when he was in hospital so that when he came home it was more comfortable. His memorial plaque is now on the front of the building.

The co-operative model has recently been much praised for being a clever solution to recession poverty. Madeleine agrees with that. "It works so much better than a lot of other things. It's so economical in many ways. Other people are living where they're paying management agencies and really a lot of the money is not going for the work, it's going for the bureaucracy of that system. We've got a history of self-build."

"The whole reuse thing and being economical was a lifestyle. It was pure common sense. My work grew out of a lifestyle of reuse and wanting to be a bit ingenious with old objects."

"To destroy us would be absolutely ridiculous and heart-breaking. When you hear all these things like 'cooperative council', 'big society' and all that kind of stuff, you think: 'guys, you don't know a thing, you're about to destroy us and we've been doing this for years!'"

Sara

"When it rains, it pours" is perhaps apt when describing Sara's current situation. She has spent the past week reeling from the news that the council want her and her neighbours leave their homes. But as an artist at the Stockwell Studios, she is also about to be evicted from there too, after Lambeth Council sold the arts centre to a private housing developer last year.

Her work is currently being shown at the Jerwood space and was also exhibited in the 2012 V22 Young London collection, which showcases emerging artists. "My work usually appropriates the context in which it happens, in a sculptural way. It makes something new, it doesn't just comment on the context." It is only by having both an affordable studio and flat that Sara has been able to dedicate herself to making art, working part time to subsidise that.

Sara is Portuguese and for her "Brixton is my home now, not my hometown, and I think that's quite significant. I go to the coffee shops

down Atlantic Rd and they know my name, they ask about my mum who came to visit once".

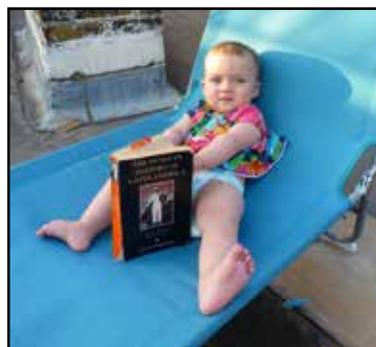
She talks warmly of the co-op. "I think it's the fact that you're actively responsible for the place where you live. We have our own private spaces but there's an invisible side of it where we are responsible for each other and it's alright, it's not a burden, it makes it easier."

Ruth

For a period of my childhood, I walked past the Big Splash mural on Glenelg Rd almost every day. It denoted a completely different world right in the middle of urban Brixton; it was somehow magical. It was only years later, in 2011, that I found out the story behind that mural - who created it and why it was there - as well as many more in Brixton, when Ruth took me on a tour of the area.

Ruth has featured on these pages many, many times - first as the founder of the London Mural Preservation Society (LMPS) and then as the author of the Little Lambeth blog and the Little Brixton column. It is somehow apt that she is a resident of Carlton Mansions, which hosts the legendary Nuclear Dawn mural on one side of the building. One of the artists who painted the mural lived here. "It's the politics and thinking of the time - it's old Brixton, that's just the way it was, and that politics is on the side of the wall there and that's where co-op ideas come from too."

The sense of history really pleases her. Having just had a baby (see pic, below), Ruth has even looked back at the census and found that right at the beginning of the building's history there was somebody born in the flat she now lives in. "It's interesting because there are still quite a lot of bits of



Co-op to be evicted over fire safety fears

Continued from page 1...

council came to an informal agreement that the co-op would stay on site until Carlton Mansions is needed for the Somerleyton Rd redevelopment in a few years' time.

The housing co-operative has had a long-standing role in the community and has been heavily involved in consultations on the Somerleyton Road development, which the council says "will be developed in partnership with the local community." A Carlton Mansions resident said: "The Co-op does not want to hold up this important scheme. The 'Co-operative Council' is now trying to get rid of a community that lives on the site. Is this how 'partnership' in Lambeth Co-op Council works?"

Deborah Bestwick, director of the Oval House Theatre, which hopes to move to a new building on the site said: "This situation is a blow to the process (as well as a horrible blow to the co-op members) because some of the residents were contributing to the thinking about the development of Somerleyton Rd, and they are, after all, the only residents living within the project boundary."

Cllr Heywood said: "we have been meeting with the co-operative regularly...and offering every chance for a dialogue. I very much

hope that they will continue to play an active role in discussions about the redevelopment of the site."

If the Co-operative leaves, the building will be left empty for roughly two years. The council spokesperson said: "once the building is vacated it will need to be secured. We will not be using live-in guardians due to the recommendations of the Fire Risk Assessment."

Talks are continuing with the council but Lambeth has said: "We will be taking whatever legal action is best suited to the circumstances. The Co-op will be formally advised of this in due course."

For updates on this story go to www.brixtonblog.com



Deborah Bestwick, from Oval House, called the move a 'blow' to Somerleyton Road plans

which belong to the original building - where my fireplace is you can see where there would have been something sitting there to do your cooking on. It really is part of Brixton's old building stock and it would be really sad to see it go. Internally, I can't see any real problems with it." It would be a great shame, she says, to see the interiors knocked down and only the frontage left.

Ruth takes me up to the roof - it's like being on the set of Mary Poppins, a view of Brixton I have never seen before.

"I enjoy the experience of living in a co-op. I enjoy having a personal private space but also being part of something. The members of the co-op have an interest in making things better here."

Ruth works alongside the volunteer projects she runs. "Both projects have benefitted people in the local community. I've had verbal feedback so it's not just doing something for myself."

Anthony

"Short Life is Great" is the title of Anthony's latest art work, a video documentary of his flat at Carlton Mansions. "The title is a joke. It's definitely great because, you know, it helps me to work, because my funds are very small and to be able to have an affordable house helps a good deal. Also I think it (Carlton Mansions) has this 'off the track' interior. I like the drafts, it's not a

confined environment."

Anthony has often used the subject of 'shortlife' in his artworks. "It could be 'short life' as it is, as time flies, but it's also to do with the situation where I live. I have documented Carlton Mansions - I use disused materials like doors and instead of chucking them away from the co-op I've used them to hang my work on it, speakers or monitors or framed pictures."

Anthony made "Short Life is Great" and another piece, "Short Life in Detail" (see pic, below), around the same time as the consultations on Somerleyton Rd got underway. "I did it in an optimistic place. We were participating and brainstorming with the council on the Somerleyton Rd redevelopment project. So the level of optimism in those pieces could come from this situation. But then it got bad, of course, and my thinking about this piece started taking a different sort of energy and maybe it became more ironic."

Anthony has just won a fellowship to the Jerwood artspace.



The magical world of London's oldest adventure playground

BY LUKE MASSEY, FEATURES EDITOR

I'm a big fan of adventure playgrounds. And while my clambering and scampering days are (broadly) behind me, I was intrigued to discover that Lambeth is home to London's oldest instance of this venerable community institution: Triangle Adventure Playground.

Tucked away behind Oval Station on Ashmole Street lies a labyrinth of tyre swings, zip-lines, slides, gardening antics and arts & crafts. Triangle was established in 1957 by the late Marjorie Porter MBE – one time Mayor of Lambeth – who was honoured in 1999 for services to young people for her work at the playground as well as numerous other schemes throughout the borough.

Triangle's playworker, Gabriel, chatted to me about the work they do there, marching for funding, and what it's like working in such a longstanding institution.

"The Triangle is a vital space – and has been for many years for many people. We have met families from whom three generations have played at Triangle." And with so many people using the space that's no surprise:

"We had over 690 children use the playground during the last 12 months, with typically 50 - 80 visitors daily. We are completely free so one and all are welcome. Our users range from the ages of six to 18 but under-5s are welcome with mum or dad."

Gabriel tells me that Triangle has recently been decorated in recognition of its work: "The Triangle are proud winners of The Best Variety in Play 2012 at the London Playground of the Year Awards so we can safely say we offer a huge range of activities for young people!"

So what do they do? Well, as this award might suggest, it could be easier to say what they don't do. Anyway, here goes! They cater for all kinds of athleticism through a huge range of swings and structures – from zip-lines to 'big towers'; tango swings and platform swings. They have bikes mini-ramps, with safe-cycle classes during holidays. A football team is just starting an inter-playground league, and they also have 'plenty of cricket/baseball/tennis/boxing/running races'.

On top of the athletic stuff, they have a huge focus on exploring nature: "We have an allotment full of veg and herbs for the kids to work on (a fine crop of potatoes and rhubarb last year) and trees and undergrowth for exploring and

«The Triangle is a vital space – and has been for many years for many people.»

climbing. A lot of digging takes place and there is a pond and 'Toad Hotel' to investigate creepy crawlies."

But getting active doesn't just have to be outdoors, Gabriel tells me. "The Triangle also has a hut where our internal activities are put on. For example in the hut we have our pool table, table tennis and futsal table. Also arts and crafts - painting, drawing, mosaics, sculpture are all on offer. We have board games galore and a selection of books for all ages. Homework club is available for anyone who wants help and space to do

homework."

Cooking is also a big part of Triangle. Last summer they compiled a cookbook which is going to print this month.

Times haven't always been easy for Triangle. In September 2010, children and youth users

of the playground joined workers, parents and community members along with Kate Hoey MP to hand in a petition signed by 1,100 people protesting at lost council backing. And the fight for the future of the institution is an ongoing process: "The cuts are beginning to bite and we are losing 10% of our summer funding from Lambeth which equates to 98 hours playtime. We aim to raise the money ourselves' through cake sales, jumble sales and the launch of a cookbook which will be out soon."

The variety of activities on offer and the importance of such a place for any community is why I remain such a fan of adventure playgrounds. They're a crucial space for local kids to get active, to have fun, to learn, and to come together.

For more information visit their website at www.triangleapg.tumblr, email triangleapg@gmail.com or Tweet @Triangle_APG



ANOTHER VIEW

www.brixtonblog.com

Too many tweets

Some of your #Brixton Tweets:



@RevBenGoodyear: Running out of food at Brixton food-bank. Please do an online shop or drop direct. Details at stpaulsbrixton.org/loving-brixton



@CJShear: We feared the worst after many months but lovely chap 'Kitler' of Saltoun Rd is back...delighted!



@BrixtonPound: Just in time for Friday night @EffraSocial's now accepting electronic Brixton Pounds. Who's going to send them their first?

Join the conversation at #Brixton. Tweet @BrixtonBlog or @Brixton_Bugle



READERS PICTURES: Windmill Halo, by Owen Llewellyn

Owen Llewellyn took this shot of a 22 degree halo around the sun, leaving a beautiful silhouette of Ashby Mill. The halo is formed by ice crystals up to five miles high in the Earth's atmosphere. Owen says he took the photo on April 6, and liked the way Brixton Windmill was forced to bring out the features of the halo and parhelia.

Upload your Brixton pictures to our Flickr page: www.flickr.com/groups/brixtonblog

newsdesk@brixtonblog.com
www.brixtonblog.com

Your favourite beer garden in Brixton?

Lala Bailey Bit outta Brixton but the railway tavern just outside Tulse Hill Train station has an amazing garden!

Elizabeth Delves Duke of Edinburgh and Trinity

Brixton Blog We like the small but tropical feel of the Effra Tavern. Every beer garden should have a palm tree.

Jon Pinel Railway Tulse Hill, not in Brixton, but epic!

Cinnamon Suchodolski Grand Union

Rachel Dyson Trinity Arms

Katy Robinson What they said. Though Hoots is rough n ready. And Regent on Dulwich Rd great sunset sitting on the wall.

Kate Horstead Mango Landin'!

Railway Tulse Hill We're not biased but....

JOIN IN THE CHAT: Facebook: "Brixton Blog"



Never forget Brixton bomb

Thanks for covering the annual gathering to mark the anniversary of the Brixton Bomb. This year we will be meeting at the side of the Iceland Store from 6pm, lighting three candles to represent the three communities attacked - Brixton, Brick Lane and Soho - as well as taking a moment to remember those killed and injured in Boston, and other hate crime attacks as well.

Those of us who remember the London nail bomb attacks will never forget the climate of fear that they created in London at the time, the sheer shock

and horror that this could happen. It saddens us greatly that these kind of attacks are still taking place around the world and we live in hope that the day will come when they will stop - until then we will continue to gather, to remember those lost and remind ourselves why it is important that we continue to call on all communities to stand together.

Mark Healey



BRIXTON Bugle

MARKET PROPOSALS

Some really sensible points well-made!

Lambeth council might have to find a good balance though. A secondary effect of restrictions may be that the real estate in the village and market row becomes even more valuable as business, such as potential cafes or shops, would not be able to open as freely. In which case, landlords will take the excuse to escalate rents even higher.

In some ways I understand why rents have gone up so much in the

Those areas of Brixton where the market restaurants now are used to be dark, seedy, dodgy and often dangerous areas at night, now they are lively areas for entertainment and the flow of business - and have led to a much more inviting environment - people actually come to Brixton to eat now, how about that!

I recall reading a blog on Brix-

ton back then where the author was sneering at what he called 'outsider' nervously walking down Coldharbour Lane to get to the DiogStar, well now you can thankfully boldly walk down Coldharbour Lane at night thanks to the predominance of normal as opposed to threatening people being there.

Would be interested to hear thoughts about encouraging more business to areas further afield to generate more competition.

Jo, online

ton back then where the author was sneering at what he called 'outsider' nervously walking down Coldharbour Lane to get to the DiogStar, well now you can thankfully boldly walk down Coldharbour Lane at night thanks to the predominance of normal as opposed to threatening people being there.

Mark, online

The Bugle by numbers

- » £150,000 saved by Lambeth council by cutting lollipop people
- » 52.4 miles run by Joe Derrett in double marathon challenge
- » 16 flats at Carlton Mansions condemned by Lambeth council
- » 1891 year Carlton Mansions was built
- » 43 suggestions for things to do in Brixton throughout May on p10
- » 700 people at screening celebrate the 150 years of Herne Hill Stn
- » FOUR rounds in which boxer A.J. Carter won his first pro fight
- » 48 hours to create your own film for Herne Hill Film Festival
- » 110,000 page views on Brixtonblog.com (so far) in April

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ANALYSIS

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BRIXTON Blog

The Brixton Blog and Bugle
Est. 2012

We are struggling here, for the council has law on its side in the case of Carlton Mansions – it has every right to enter the building, do a fire risk assessment and, legally, it can demand evacuation of the building. It has a “duty of care”. And yet. There is so much about this that seems uncaring, a terrible end to a group that has given so much to Brixton.

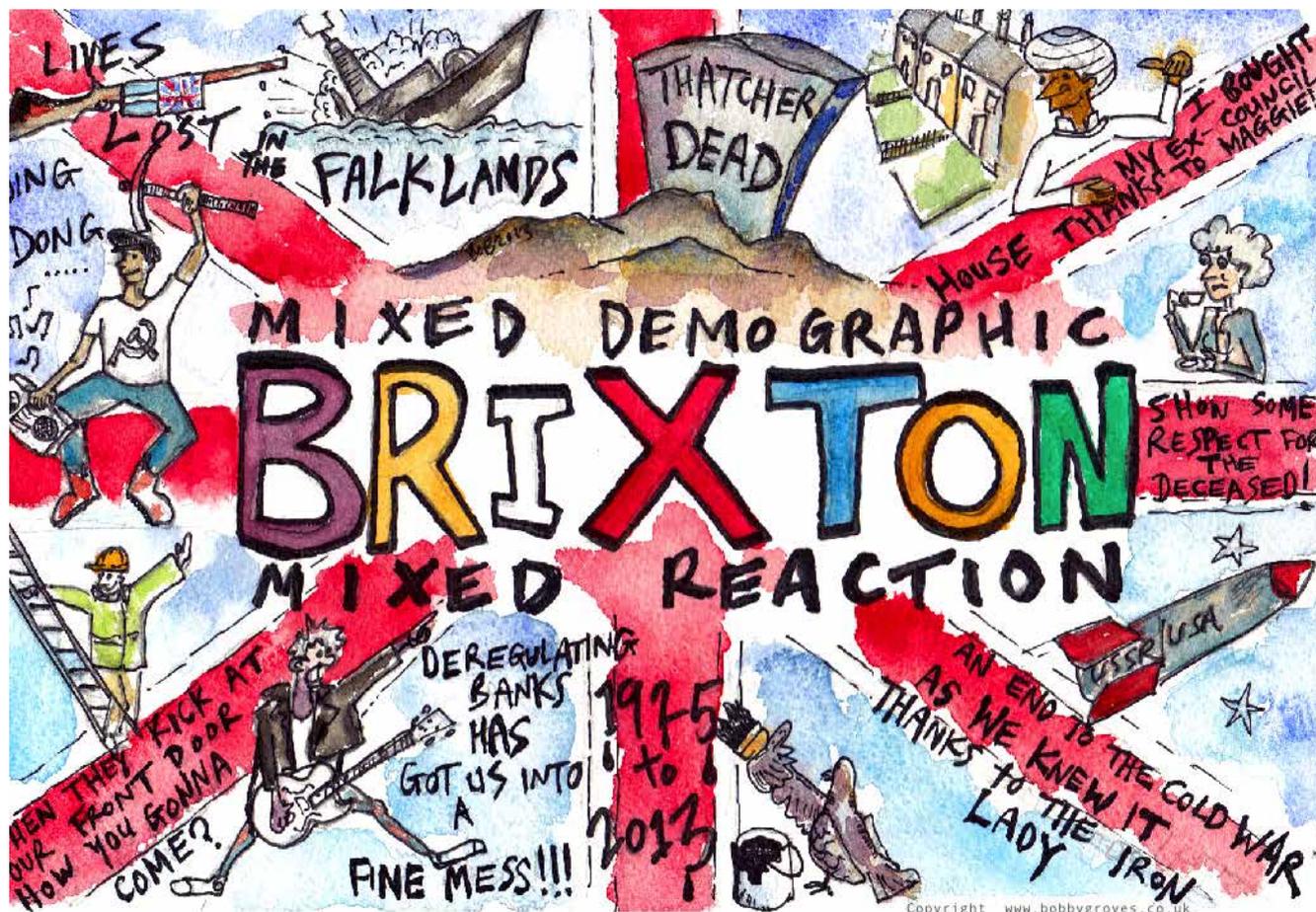
“Given so much to Brixton” – perhaps that sounds trite and, indeed, one of the residents I spoke to described their contribution as “unquantifiable”. But I don’t think it is unquantifiable. Ruth’s London Mural Preservation Society got a whole mural repainted in Brixton, is now working on one in Stockwell and has campaigned to get the Nuclear Dawn protected. The Somerleyton Road project would have suffered enormously without the ideas of CMHC, especially for affordable housing. Members have sacrificed much time going to meetings, fitting all this around their jobs.

If you have moved here recently, it is likely because of people like Madeleine on page 6 who form part of the artistic and political community, which is a vital part of Brixton’s history and its lure to new residents. And there is one person, in particular, whose contribution can be measured all over Brixton. Matthew publicly spoke up against the council at the planning meeting which eventually rid Brixton Square of its social housing; at a meeting over saving the Rec, he insisted that Cllr Peck categorically promise not to demolish the building, which she eventually did; he is there at the ‘co-operative council’ consultation workshops. And without him, many of our big articles over the past year would have been much the worse for wear, for with his deep knowledge of the local area he has provided us with information and help countless times, never wanting to be credited for that work.

The council has not previously taken much responsibility for fire assessments or indeed much else in the building. We wonder why it has chosen to do so only now. Their response: “not doing this in the past is not a reason for failing to do this in the present. The structural integrity and safety of the building is the responsibility of the freehold owner - the London Borough of Lambeth.”

This is perhaps another occasion where the reality rubs up against the values of the so-called ‘co-operative council’, supposed to create radical new ways of working with communities. The council needs to balance its “duty of care” – which in this case it has seemingly ignored for many years – with its promise to retain communities when a community wants to remain here. CMHC, ironically one of the few short life groups to work with the council, feel that they have been presented with a “fait accompli” which they have had no opportunity to discuss. To be told by a faceless and emotionless officer that you must pack up and leave your home, after decades of living there, is a terrible, terrible thing.

In this issue though, as well as report on the situation, we want to celebrate the Carlton Mansions community and their history – see page six for our profiles of residents.



Death parties deny Thatcher family the compassion she was accused of lacking

BY TESSA JOWELL

Lady Thatcher’s death became its own rolling news event, with wall-to-wall coverage in the days leading up to her funeral revealing the sometimes still bitter division in opinions about her premiership. Questions are, understandably, being asked about her indomitable style of leadership and whether it would get any traction in today’s political environment, her impact on women and her political legacy.

But let me clear about the events that took place in Brixton and elsewhere in the week of her death. Democracy must always embrace legitimate dissent but smashing charity shop windows, vandalizing a much loved local cinema and the sort of ‘celebratory parties’ that we witnessed are disrespectful and completely out of order and I know that the vast majority of people in Brixton and beyond would agree.

Lady Thatcher was divisive and so much of what she did damaged the very

fabric of this country. I went on more marches to protest during her period in office than in any other and fought two elections just before she became Prime Minister – the politics of that time were raw and divisive, the memories of which still stir passions to this day. But that doesn’t mean that, in respect of her family, her public service and the people who worked closely with her, her memory should not be honoured in the way we saw last Wednesday.

By any measure Lady Thatcher was an extraordinary politician, the longest

serving PM for 150 years and, of course, Britain’s first female PM. She moved British politics to a new centre ground, although the boundaries of this territory remain highly contested. She was, for sure, a great woman in a man’s world, but she did it by beating them at their own game. She was no feminist icon, nor any role model for the many young women who, we must hope, will believe strongly enough in the decent power of politics to bring about change, that they’re prepared to give it a go.

Her death should prompt a debate about how we mark these kinds of moments in the future and about how we honour former PMs but this period, here and now, must be a time for respect and dignity. By behaving in an offensive manner, Lady Thatcher’s critics deny her memory, her friends and her family the very compassion they so readily accuse her of lacking.

Tessa Jowell is MP for Dulwich and West Norwood, which includes part of Brixton.



My proposal for the future of Brixton’s markets

BY RICHARD POPE

Since 2009, when the owners of Brixton Village and Market Row engaged the services of what their annual report referred to as a “specialist marketing company”, the number of bars and restaurants in both markets has exploded.

In some instances they opened in empty units, but many have been at the expense of long term businesses who can’t compete with the rent you can afford to pay from selling premium hot food and alcohol.

Residents living near the market, myself included, have also felt the effect as opening hours are stretched and more

and more bars open.

In Market Row there are now eleven licensed premises. The number is larger in Brixton Village.

The noise from groups of people drinking and smoking at the entrances to the markets, use of surrounding roads as public toilets, and people leaving at closing time, means the market area is, for the first time, noisy from 6am when the outdoor market sets up, until well after midnight.

This is getting worse, and come the summer will be quite extreme.

The interesting thing though, is that, since 2009, all

this has happened without residents and local businesses having a chance to have their say about the direction of the market.

Many of the bars and restaurants have opened without going through the necessary change-of-use planning application.

The hours of the market have been extended without any sort of consultation with residents, and, as I understand it, at cost to traders.

This may all sound a bit harsh on the bars and restaurants involved. They are often independent traders themselves (although it may only be a matter of time before chains begin to force them out too), who are trying to make a go of it.

But if these issues don’t get resolved it will only breed resentment between residents, and old and new traders. And Brixton is too

nice a place to allow that to grow.

My proposal is therefore that the council work with everyone involved to do the following things:

1. Create a saturation zone for new licences, similar to the one in Clapham, for the market area.
2. Require bars and restaurants to apply for planning permission so everyone has a chance to put their case.
3. Set up some sort of forum for people who live and work in the market to work together to guide its future.

If we don’t, more businesses will be forced out, residents will suffer, and eventually we may find we have lost a historic shopping market forever.



WHAT'S ON

www.brixtonblog.com

The sunshine on Windrush Square has been a pleasant addition to Lambeth in the last couple of weeks. So with Spring finally here What's On editor Faye Lipson brings us her day-by-day suggestions of what to get up both outdoors and in all over a sunny Brixton town.

Friday April 26 Every Friday night, Plan B brings urban pop and hip hop to Brixton Road at their Bump night. For £7 before 11pm you can party the night away until 4am.

Saturday April 27 Made in Lambeth at Lambeth Town Hall builds on the success of 2 previous events. A collective of creatives and skilled people will come together at this event to focus on improving Lambeth's public spaces. Drop in between 12am and 5pm to get

involved.

Sunday April 28 Enjoy a classic Sunday roast at Mango Landin' with live jazz to play you through your meal. 2pm to 5pm.

Monday April 29 Join a community of singers and celebrate Jamaica's musical contribution to London's culture. As part of the London City Reggae Choir you will sing ska, reggae, and dancehall classics and work towards paid performance. Every Monday at 7:30 in The Lost Theatre, Wandsworth Road.

Tuesday April 30 The Prince Regent pub quiz features cash prizes, free drinks questions and a roll-over jackpot question that grows each week. Arrive early to secure a table. Starts 8pm.

Wednesday May 1 Get your green fingers out and volunteer at Brockwell Park's Dig The Park. You'll be helping to prune, trim and plant to improve growth and aid the survival of local wildlife. Tools and guidance will be provided, but bring provisions. 11am - 2pm.

Thursday May 2 Check out Electric Social's House of Smilez, a whole night dedicated to the wonderful world of house. The night will feature live DJ sets and percussion from DJ Smilez and friends playing soulful, deep, minimal and progressive house music. From 8pm til late. Free admission.

Friday May 3 Keep the kids amused with a chocolate-making workshop at the newly-opened Chocolate Museum on Ferndale Road. Ingredients are supplied and children will learn about the process and history of choco-

CRITIC'S CHOICE: Make your own short film at Herne Hill Film Festival, Saturday May 4

Collect a prop, be given a Herne Hill location and a famous line of film dialogue and then go off and make your film of less than three minutes incorporating all three items - in just 48 hours.

Come along to the Prince Regent pub on Saturday 4 May to collect your prop, location and famous line. Under 18s come along 11am - 12pm and over 18s from 12 - 1pm. Then go off and make your film using these elements and deliver your finished film by 6pm on Monday 6 May!



late-making. Advanced booking always essential. See www.thechocolatemuseum.co.uk for more information.

Saturday May 4 If you like your Saturdays smooth, get down to Veranda on Acre Lane for Organic Soul, a soul & R&B night from the DJs behind The Soul of London Radio. What's more, it's free before 10.

Sunday May 5 Cake Club Cabaret at Kaff Bar offers cabaret entertainment with regular burlesque performances, outrageous comedy, song, dance, circus and plenty of cake. BYO cake for the chance to be crowned the King or Queen of Cakes. Starts 8pm.

Argentine singer Alejandra Burgos will be playing at the LOST Theatre for one night only. A programme put together for the occasion will be sold with all proceeds going to the Alzheimers Society. Tickets available in advance from www.ticketweb.co.uk, £10 or £7 concessions. Starts 7pm.

Monday May 6 The next installment of Brixton BookJam is today at Hootananny, starting 7:30pm. For absolutely no monies (yes, it's completely free) you can hear readings from such notable literary

talents as Leila Segal, Gaylene Gould and Zelda Rhiando, among many others.

Tuesday May 7 Help the hungry by donating packaged food to Brixton food bank. Donations are welcome at St Paul's Church on Tuesdays 10am-1.30pm, Saturdays 11am - 2pm, Sundays 11am - 1pm. The bank urgently needs full fat UHT milk, tinned sweetcorn, mushrooms and green beans, sponge puddings, rice puddings and instant mash.

Wednesday May 8 Bingo fans will enjoy Kaff Bar's regular bingo night hosted by Tina Tea Lady and tunes from DJ Underkova. Games are free to enter and there will be free drinks for the winners of each game, so let the games begin. Starts 8pm.

Thursday May 9 Open Deck night at Mango Landin'. Wannabe DJs (or real ones) can bring along 4 singles and put their name down at the bar. The best selectors will win a prize at the end of the night. Every Thursday starting 9pm.

Friday May 10 Are you an artist or creative based in Lambeth? The wonderful Lambeth Open, now in its fifth year, is open for submissions. On the first weekend of

CRITIC'S CHOICE: Brixton Bake Off April 27



Brixton Station Road will be hosting an extravaganza of culinary delight. The Great Brixton Bake-Off II showcases the best that local bakers have to offer with products being entered into the following categories: cakes, cupcakes, biscuits & bites, savouries, vegan and bread. Try their wares and judge for yourself. Official judges include Levi Roots of Reggae Sauce fame and Mark Bennett, Mayor of Lambeth. 10am to 5pm, Free

LOWIE SAMPLE SALE

Thursday 2nd May
10am til 9pm

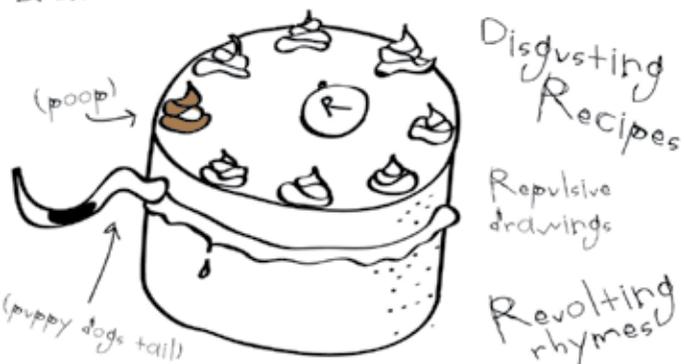
Lowie Shop
115 Dulwich Road,
Herne Hill,
SE24 0NG

Samples from £5
and 30% off new
collection

sponsored listing

THE GREAT BRIXTON OFF BAKE OFF

KIDS WORKSHOP 10AM-12PM



Saturday 27th April
At Brixton Station
Road Market

Free, all ages welcome
www.brixtonmarket.net



CRITICS CHOICE: Windmill 'Hands On' mural unveiling, May 6

Find the feel-good community factor by heading down to the newly reopened Brixton Windmill for the public unveiling of Brixton's newest mural - a collaboration between artist Camila Cardenosa and hundreds of local people. Enjoy the celebration party and live music and socialise with your community. This event runs from 2pm - 5pm. Free.



WHAT'S ON

October artists and craftspeople across the borough of Lambeth will be exhibiting their work to the public in their studios, pop-up shops, shared spaces or their own homes. You could be one of them. Visit www.lambethopen.com for more information.

Saturday May 11 South London Botanical Institute are holding their popular annual plant sale at 323 Norwood Road. Come for the chance to buy a wide range of locally grown and unusual plants, with horticultural advice also on offer.

Sunday May 12 The Ritzy is screening a live performance of the Bolshoi ballet's Romeo and Juliet. Book early if you wish to see this retelling of Shakespeare's most famous tragedy. 4pm.

Monday May 13 Get fit and have fun with Swingland's swing dance classes at Electric Social. Beginners at 7.30pm and improvers at 8.45pm. No booking required, just pay on the door! £6 per class.

Tuesday May 14 Lambeth Council run an informal weekly drop-in session for anyone considering becoming a parent through adoption. No booking necessary, just an interest in changing a child's life for the better. The sessions are at Lambeth Town Hall from 2 - 4pm every Tuesday. When you arrive, enter the main door (just below the clock tower) and go to the Town Hall Reception. They will be able to provide you with directions to the room booked for the drop-in session.

Wednesday May 15 American band Nothington, fresh from their international tour, bring their uniquely Southern country and bluesy brand of punk to The

Windmill. Starts 7.30pm £6 in advance, £7 on the door.

Thursday May 16 There's fun in store for folk fans if they get down to the Hand in Hand pub. Local musicians The No Frills Band are playing a 2 hour set of toe-tapping folk tunes from around the world. 8 - 11.30pm

Friday May 17 Baz Luhrmann's hotly anticipated film The Great Gatsby is released today at the Ritzy. If you're as excited as we are you'll want to book your tickets in advance.

Saturday May 18 The culmination of the Herne Hill Film festival, Studio Ghibli's Spirited Away will be screened outdoors in Brockwell Park. Come for a great evening with stalls providing food and drink from 6pm before the start of the performance at around 8.30pm.

Sunday May 19 Foodies will find delicious locally grown produce at the regular Sunday farmers' market on Brixton Station Road from 10am to 2pm.

Monday May 20 If you've ever wished that exercise could be more like a party, you might want to try a Zumba class. Zumba is an informal mix of dance styles from mambo, merengue and cha-cha to belly dancing and hip hop. Classes are informal and fun, with the emphasis on movement and enjoyment rather than accuracy. They run from 7:30 - 8:30pm every Monday at Moorlands Community Centre. Your first class is a steal at £1, with subsequent classes costing £5 each. Pay on the door.

Tuesday May 21 Cyclists keen to get involved in the local cycling community can attend this month-



ly meeting of the Lambeth Cyclists, upstairs at the Priory Arms pub at 7.30pm. Topics for discussion include cycle projects, route improvements and organised rides and social events.

Wednesday May 22 We Love Comedy. As well as being a true statement, that's the name of a new comedy night at Effra Social featuring the comic talents of Eleanor Conway, Viv Groskop, Eric Lampaert and many more. Every Wednesday. £5 on the door.

Thursday May 23 Brixton Library offers a storytelling session for under 5s - Shake Rattle & Roll Storytimes, sometimes featuring crafts and refreshments too. Every Tuesday 10.30 - 11.15am and Thursday 1.30 - 2.15pm during term time only.

Friday May 24 Every Friday at Fridge Bar you can get on down to RnB, hip hop and house from ONTOP FM DJs Mr Suey, Conspiracy, Milktray, and guest DJs. 10pm - 4:30am.

Saturday May 25 it's the 48 Hour Film Competition finale. This is your chance to view all the entries to this year's competition, organised by Herne Hill film festival. Winners will be announced. It kicks off at 8pm in the Half Moon pub.

Sunday May 26 The performance space in Brockwell Park offers 2 family-friendly performances from 5pm (right). 'Green and Pleasant Land' fuses physical theatre, live music and folk traditions in a 45 minute epic adventure for audiences from 5 upwards. The quest

is powered by bicycle generators, making it earth-conscious as well as fun.

Monday May 27 Satay bar and restaurant offers its tasty two for a tenner deal on Mondays. Dine on 2 green or red curries plus large rice for only £10 - perfect for delicious pan-Asian food on a budget. What's more, you can pay with Brixton Pounds and support the local economy. Offer applies to takeaway meals only.

Tuesday May 28 Over-60s can benefit from the launch of the Silver Screen club at the Ritzy. Fill out the form in the cinema to claim your free membership card, entitling you to discounted ticket prices and free hot drink and biscuits at Silver Screen shows. If you join in April or May you will also be entered into a draw to win one of ten free Picturehouse Memberships. Existing members can skip the form and let the Ritzy know they would like Silver Screen membership added to their account.

Wednesday May 29 Time is running out if you want to visit Pho-

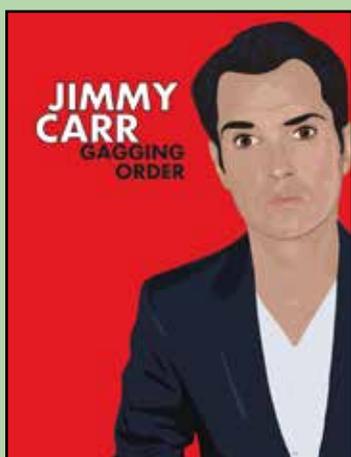
tofusion's Select 2013 exhibition, featuring the work of Photofusion's most talented members. Photographic and documentary subjects include the North London mod scene and the working docks of Liverpool as well as more abstract work. The exhibition closes on Friday 31st, so get down soon if you don't want to miss out.

Thursday May 30 Calling all Stone Roses fans: the Ritzy is broadcasting a live satellite-linked screening of the Manchester premier of Stone Roses: Made of Stone (above), the highly anticipated documentary directed by Shane Meadows. The band themselves will be in attendance and viewers will enjoy a Q&A with Shane Meadows. Book early to avoid missing this one-of-a-kind event.

Friday May 31 Astral Circus, as the name suggests, is not your standard night out. The night, hosted by Jamm, features trippy lasers, UV and a DJ list which sounds like a cast of thousands, including Laughing Buddha, Pogo, Shane Gobi, Nick Sentience, Slackbaba and many more of the weird and wonderfully named.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: Jimmy Carr May 18

Carr strolls out of your TV and into the Brixton Academy. 'Gagging Order' promises to be a hilarious night out packed with one-liners, stories and jokes. The promotional bumf urges you to 'leave your conscience, sense of common decency and moral compass at home'. That's us warned then! Over-16s only. Starts 8pm, finishes 11pm. Advanced booking a must and seats cost £28.



How to Solve Cryptic Crosswords

Develop a mind-expanding skill for life in this fun-packed evening workshop! Tues 14th May, 7pm
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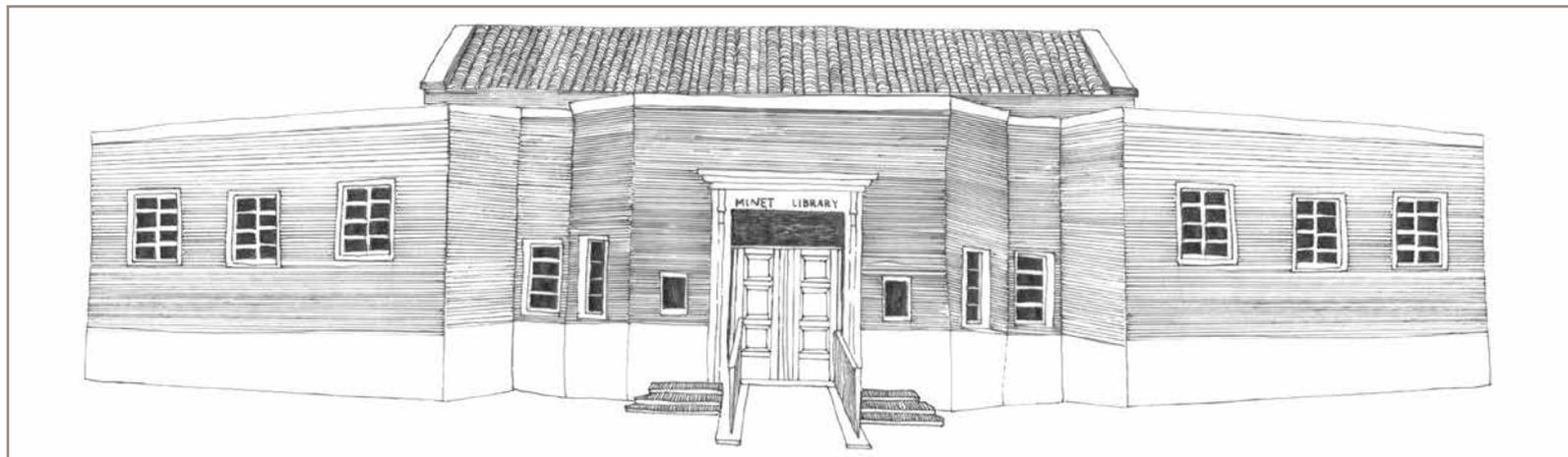


CULTURE

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Spotlight on Minet Library

The Bugle finds out more about the home of the Lambeth Archives



Originally donated to the community by wealthy local landowner and philanthropist, William Minet, to commemorate the life of his wife, the Minet Library on Knatchbull Road has always had a unique relationship with local history.

To this day the library houses the Lambeth Archives, as well as functioning as a lending library and community resource. *The Bugle* Arts team met Jon Newman, Manager of the Lambeth Archives, to find out more.

William Minet was “arguably something of a control freak” and “very concerned that his library should be distinctive”, Jon Newman told *The Bugle*. He was a keen local historian and adamant that his library should collect and curate local history. Putting his money where his mouth was, William Minet funded the buying of collections of documents, photographs and watercolors at auctions, and so began the genesis of the Lambeth Archives.

The original building was bombed during the Second World War, but safely hidden in the basement, the archives survived, going on to become the official Lambeth Archives in the 1950s, when the library moved away from being jointly run by Lambeth and Camberwell

councils (now Southwark) to being a Lambeth library. Gradually all the archives from Brixton library and the town hall were brought to Knatchbull Road, to form an extensive collection of local historical documents.

But what are archives? The definition of archive is “documents generated by an organisation going about its daily business” Jon tells us. “They are the unconscious paperwork of everything from the planning of drains to the running of elections”.

In the traditional sense, archives don’t include magazines and newspapers, but minutes, agendas, committee notes, title deeds, plans and maps. Amongst many other purposes “the archives act as Lambeth Council’s memory”.

Keen to keep this impressive resource open to a wide range of people, Jon is proud to say that they “always have someone on the desk at the library to help people use the archives and find what they want... The nature of archives means that there’s always a high level of mediation involved.”

Aside from council business, we’re keen to find out what else the Lambeth Archives are used for today. “Ten years ago I would have said family history”, Jon tells us; “now, although it’s a major use, a lot of people are doing this research at



Illustration of Minet Library today (top) by Sophie Gainsley; photograph of the building in 1890 and the archive today (below left), courtesy of London Borough of Lambeth, Archives Department

home. One of the interesting knock-on effects of the gentrification of large areas around Minet has been the growth in proud home owners wanting to uncover the history of their house.”

“People also use the archives to find out more about their local area, their street, their park, and we get a lot of students from local colleges, as well as undergraduates and postgraduates using the archives for in-depth research.”

“There are also various types of business use – people come to the archives to get a piece of information that they need for practical reasons. Sometimes people are looking for established certificates of use or looking at drainage plans to work out why they’re having sewage problems; archeologists and property developers alike often use the archives to find out about the history of a site.”

Asking Jon about some of the interesting stories which have been uncovered through the Lambeth archives, he reveals the story of an

elderly man, who visited the archives on the anniversary of his parents’ death in a bomb attack on Brixton’s Acre Lane during the Second World War. A baby at the time, the man had lived with the story all his life and came to the archives to read the incident file. The archives helped him gain a kind of closure and his story greatly moved the staff who assisted him.

Although certain uses of the Lambeth Archives are on the decline, Jon remains buoyant in the knowledge that the online picture archives are increasingly popular with both individuals and companies: “People are still using the archives, but it’s increasingly through the website.”

Can he see a time when the archives are entirely digitised? “Digitisation wouldn’t be a cost or time effective option for the majority of the Lambeth Archives – it’s really only suitable for ‘popular files’ such as photographs.” And he can’t see the physical archives going anywhere soon.

What’s Next for Minet Library?

The Minet Library is a unique building and community resource that needs local champions if it is to survive the latest round of austerity cuts to public services. The Minet Hub, a partnership of local community organisations, aims to transform the library into a resource centre for the community, using external investment from relevant sources such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The project is due to begin soon, and is split into three phases: a consultation with local residents to discover exactly what is needed first, followed by the development of a detailed plan for the library with architects and consultants, and then the application for funding.

The Minet Hub’s full proposal for the library can be viewed online.

Spirit of Brixton



AbdulHaq ibn Kofi ibn Kwesi al-Ashanti from The Brixton Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre

Brixton is not only home to one of the most vibrant communities and hubs in London but also boasts one of the most diverse, active and youthful mosques in the capital. The Brixton Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre, Masjid Ibn Taymiyyah, has been at the forefront of London’s Muslim community since its establishment in the early 1990s. We have championed the Salafi ethos of Islam, a poorly understood and often misunderstood Islamic tradition.

As a community, we made enormous strides over the years in advocating Islam in London, promoting what it holds to be the lost practices of early Muslim generations, helping the wider community to understand issues affecting Muslims and helping young offenders. These endeavours have not always been met with open arms, but Brixton Mosque was notably one of the first London communities to openly speak out against extremism.

At The Brixton Mosque we have one of, if not the, largest population of Muslim converts in the United Kingdom. We also have one of the most diverse Muslim communities in London. Our mosque is particularly unique in that it currently has members originating from a huge number of different countries, including Ghana, Jamaica, Nigeria, Morocco, Somalia, Algeria, Albania and France.

We are really keen to encourage dialogue within the community, with a serious and focused educational programme which teaches the core principles of Islam. Our educational approach has been strengthened by our connections with qualified Islamic scholars from around the world, and they have ensured that Brixton Mosque has been a pivotal part of the learning process for British Muslims in London.

The Brixton Mosque is situated on Gresham Road opposite the police station and has recently completed a major extension. You can find out more about the mosque by visiting www.brixtonmasjid.co.uk.



HERNE HILL FREE FILM FESTIVAL



History will be made at Brockwell Park this month with the first ever full-length outdoor screening of a film in its grounds. The free screening of *Spirited Away* by Studio Ghibli on Saturday 18 May takes its place in an exciting line-up of films put on by the inaugural Herne Hill Free Film Festival.

The festival follows the success of last year's celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of Herne Hill Railway Station, when Buster Keaton's silent movie, *The General*, was displayed in Station Square. Internationally acclaimed silent movie pianist Neil Brand accompanied on the piano that sits within the station.

Organisers were overwhelmed by the popularity of the event, with over 700 residents turning up, more than three times the numbers expected.

This year's festival, supported by Film London, kicked off on 19 April with a Keaton and Charlie Chaplin double bill. Other notable screenings include *Muriel's Wedding*, put on at Brockwell Lido on 4 May, and a return to Station Square on 1 June with Ang Lee's *Eat, Drink, Man, Woman*, preceded by a street food festival.

Organiser Charlotte Ashworth told *The Bugle*: "we had a brilliant time bringing the local community together last year. Our festival is open to anyone who wants to see great films in our favourite local places. And best of all, it's completely free!"

The full programme of events can be found on the website www.hernehillforum.org.uk

Expressing Africa

Arts Editor Ruth Waters caught up with leading Afro-surreal expressionist painter, Adjani Okpu-Egbe, between his Coldharbour Lane studio and his Atlantic Road exhibition.

Growing up in Cameroon, Adjani dreamed of playing for the national football team. He was selected for the junior national team at fourteen but his businessman father was determined he would study mathematics and follow him into business. Locked in his bedroom for hours on end supposedly doing sums, Adjani began drawing footballers from memory, hurriedly scrawling mathematical sums over the top when his father came to check on him.

The combination of mathematical symbols and expressive drawings remains a defining feature of Adjani's work. His paintings are a complex lattice of modern and ancient mathematical and linguistic symbols, alongside bold and abstracted figures in raw colours. "It's unbelievable the way certain things have worked together in my life, leading me to paint in this way."

At high school it wasn't just his drawing skills that got him noticed. An enthusiastic sportsman and a highly commended team player, Adjani thought of being a politician and studied archaeology and history at university. Worried how he would earn a living in Cameroon, Adjani then decided to enroll in the British Army and served for five years, before being discharged due to health problems last year.

It was only while he was on sick leave from the army that Adjani returned to the drawing and painting from his childhood. "Most of the time that I was drawing, I noticed that I was at peace. I stopped taking my prescribed antidepressants - they didn't work for me - and I used my art as therapy. I did a couple of drawings which many people seemed to really like, and I just took it from there."

"In the beginning, I wasn't expecting to be showing my work

to anybody. The reason for drawing and painting today is still the same as it was then: therapy. To start with I refused to sell or give any of my pieces away because they were so personal."

Having only been a dedicated artist since September 2012, Adjani has packed a lot in already, exhibiting in London, LA and New York. Last summer, Adjani was selected by the BBC to be one of 20 artists commissioned to capture the Queen's Diamond Jubilee river pageant from the Millennium Bridge, and he has recently returned from presenting a print of the final pageant-inspired piece to be hung in the British Embassy in Cameroon. He is also the first person to be given permission to exhibit at the Dalton Barracks in Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

He tells me about his surreal journey from leaving Cameroon to returning there as an honorary artist: "When I was in Cameroon earlier this year, I was standing as an invited guest, expenses paid, in the exact same spot as I stood almost seven years ago, applying for a visa to live in the UK."

Adjani had his first solo exhibition last year at Mokspace Gallery opposite the British Museum, and will be returning there later this year, after he exhibits in South Kensington and, of course, Brixton's Knight Webb Gallery. Where does he find inspiration for this constant outpouring of creativity? "I'm really interested in ancient African and Western myths and symbols," he tells me, "and I read a lot, and try to research everything that interests me." But it is his interest in contemporary life, interlaced with the mystical, ancient and symbolic, which gives his work universal appeal. "I can just jump on the bus for whole days at a time. I love watching people, and come back with a whole sketch pad full of ideas and drawings."

Inspired by two greats of expressionism, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Pablo Picasso, Adjani's work has



EXPRESSIVE: Adjani Okpu-Egbe painting at Knight Webb Gallery. Mario Balotelli's *Revery* (below left) and Ekpe 1, below right

a unique blend of influences and guiding principles. "I stand in a more privileged position than either of them. Although Basquiat had an African heritage, he never actually lived in Africa, and Picasso was only an interested outsider; I lived and studied there, so expressing Africa comes naturally to me and I get to tap into their mastery of expressionism with my own ideas and images."

Much like his career path, Adjani and his Brixton studio were united by a remarkable series of events. While in the area working with a group of young people on graffiti art, he went into the 'D' Convenience Store on Coldharbour Lane to find the man serving him to be not only from Cameroon, but from the very same village as him. The two instantly bonded, and Adjani now paints from a makeshift studio at the back of the shop.

Adjani is regularly invited to paint live at events, with the Diamond Jubilee pageant being the most notable event he has painted at. He also painted at the Jarvits Center New York last year. Why does he think he is constantly invited to paint live? "People are fascinated by the creation of art. I love to remove all the barriers of painting. I get passers-by participating, and give them the brush. It's fantastic."

However, one of these events landed Adjani in the cells. Whilst out painting around Clapham Junction during the August 2011 riots he was mistakenly arrested and

accused of looting a t-shirt. Never easily defeated, Adjani views this personal injustice and the riots as a whole through an artist's eyes. "To my mind, the riots were expressionism but performed on the wrong platform. These youngsters have something to say, but they're saying it in the wrong way."

Not satisfied with the soaring success of his paintings, which now sell for thousands of pounds and attract large audiences to both group and solo shows, Adjani tells me that "I will consider myself doing well when I can show young people how to express themselves through art and use it as therapy."

Adjani's work is currently part of *Urban Expressionism and other Stray Talent* at Knight Webb Gallery on Atlantic Road.



FILM

www.brixtonblog.com

The Ritzy's cinematic month with Ash Clark

The biggest, massiest ticket in May is JJ Abrams' **Star Trek Into Darkness** (May 10) - in fact tickets are already on sale. This time around, after being called back home, the crew of the USS Enterprise find a seemingly unstoppable force which has attacked Starfleet and left Earth in chaos. Captain Kirk and the crew of the Enterprise are tasked with leading the deadly manhunt to capture the party responsible and settle an old score. Most of the old faces return, but

the new draw is Benedict Cumberbatch as villain John Harrison (a role he looks to be attacking with lip-smacking relish if the trailer is anything to go by). It's sure to be one of the big cinema events of the year.

Not far behind Star Trek in the big ticket stakes is Baz Luhrmann's long-awaited (and long-delayed) 3D debut **The Great Gatsby** (May 17). The Australian's adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic Roaring Twenties-era novel stars Leonardo

di Caprio as the eponymous maverick, alongside Carey Mulligan. In keeping with previous output from the director of *Romeo + Juliet* and *Moulin Rouge*, it's likely to be a laid-back, low-key and muted affair.

Fans of unbearably tense and skilfully directed thrillers will want to keep their peepers out for Tobias Lindholm's superb, and rather literally monikered **A Hijacking** (May 10). Telling the story of the hold-up of the crew of a Danish

cargo ship by Somali pirates, it's a sweaty classic of the genre, with claustrophobic situations and increasingly hostile negotiations all captured expertly by Lindholm's keen, dispassionate eye. Don't miss.

Another Euro treat is **Régis Roinsard's Populaire** (May 31), an utterly charming and vibrant rom-com. Set in 1958, and with more than a hint of *Mad Men*'s slick style, it tells the story of Rose (Deborah Francois), a terrible

secretary but a ridiculously quick typist. Her boss (the unfairly handsome Romain Duris) resolves to turn her into the fastest girl in the world. It's not the most unpredictable film you'll have ever seen, but it's recommended for its lightness of touch and likeable performances.

Toward the end of the month, there's a special preview of Stone Roses reunion documentary **Made of Stone** (May 30), followed by a live satellite Q&A with director Shane Meadows and producer Mark Herbert. Also catching the eye is a Reminisce screening of Lindsay Anderson's classic 'Angry Young Man' drama **This Sporting Life** (May 21). Finally, look out for the Ritzy's always impressive repertory programme; in particular the weekly, ongoing 'Discover Tuesdays' strand which looks to highlight the best in arthouse and indie cinema.

All films showing at the Ritzy Cinema, Brixton Oval. Visit www.picturehouses.co.uk

Ashley Clark runs the film blog *Permanent Plastic Helmet*. Follow it on Twitter @PPlasticHelmet and/or him @_Ash_Clark.



Win two tickets to Star Trek



The friendly people at The Ritzy have offered our readers two free tickets to *Star Trek: Into the Darkness*. For the chance to win, simply answer the following question:

What is the name of the actress who voiced most of Star Trek's talking computers until her death in 2008?

Please send your answers to competitions@brixtonblog.com by May 5

REVIEW: Sofia turns 100

BY ZOE JEWELL, EDITOR

Sofia is a model old lady - at turns witty, wonderfully blunt, uncomplaining, fit and with a brilliantly cackling laugh. And she is very old - Sofia is in fact now 103. This documentary was made in her 100th year, following her life from January to her birthday in December and it was shown at the Ritzy Cinema last week during the Argentine Film Festival, here in Brixton for the second year

running.

Director Hernán Belón follows Sofia in her day-to-day life - teaching her grandchildren to cook gnocchi, bickering with her younger sister or snoozing while pretending to read the newspaper. Mixed in with this is archive footage shot by the family of Sofia travelling to New York or visiting Paris with her grandchildren, embracing as much as she can in life before it leaves her.

Having lived a centenary, Sofia has actually lived for half of her country's existence. Her story intersects with many of Argentina's historical events - she grieves the "disappearance" of her son, named only 'the Baby' in the film, during the military dictatorship and we see home videos of her enforced exile to Brazil at the age of 67. It is in these sections that the film is lacking somewhat, failing to pull out from the personal and give enough context to make these events fully comprehensible to someone who doesn't know the intricacies of Argentinian politics.

The sceptic in me later wondered, of course, whether there was a dark side of the family - what grievances, residual anger, or guilt hadn't been shown. But this wasn't really a film about that - it was about what happens when families do work, when they come together, when they can have a good laugh or a good cry across generations. It is a film that made me yearn for my grandmother to still be alive and hope for a similarly jovial group of grandchildren when I grow old. Be sure to catch the festival when it comes back next year.



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FOOD

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REVIEW: Curry and addictive aubergine at Khan's

BY LINDSAY FALLER, FOOD EDITOR

Before I moved to London, I had had little interaction with Indian curry. Growing up in Oregon meant few options by way of Asian food. We had "Chinese" and sushi, but nothing like Indian, Thai, or Vietnamese. It all changed when, at the ripe age of 22 and suffering from the most epic of hangovers, Indian curry and I were introduced to each other. Spicy, tomato-y chicken jalfrezi from Khan's on Brixton Water Lane was the brain-clearing, furry-palate-cleansing smack in the face of spice and heat I needed. It completely sorted out my hangover and I was hooked. At the time, I had no idea that a curry was Britain's national dish and, after tasting more decidedly mediocre versions dotted about the country, I realised that Khan's is more the exception, rather than the rule.

The décor of the restaurant itself is simple and unfussy. There are no napkins in the shapes of fans or white tablecloths to record the curry stains and scattered rice, shaming us with our messiness in the process. As the restaurant filled up with diners, we scanned the menu we'd ordered from hundreds of times and though drawn to old favourites, we desperately wanted to try something new – something that would break us out of our rut. The friendly managers and waiting staff enthusiastically recommended some things for us to try; we trusted and ordered blindly. After a fair few poppadoms and dips, Chum



Chum Chicken and the Maachi Pakwan Kebab arrived as starters. The Chum Chum Chicken was a large piece of breast meat, served on bone. Charcoal grilled and marvellously charred in places, the meat was succulent and buttery, smacking of garlic, chilli

and coriander from the chef's "special chutney". Next came the Maachi Pakwan Kebab, a battered white fish served on a bed of smoked aubergine. It wouldn't be wholly ridiculous to say I wanted to roll myself in the aubergine, it really was that good. Although packing some

heat, it was delicate enough not to overpower the fish, which was light and flaky.

We moved on to our mains: Maachi Gul-fam, Pumpkin Masala, Chicken Green Masala and a garlic naan. Maachi Gul-fam was more white fish, this time marinated in herbs and spices, and pan-fried with tomatoes and garlic. It was a refreshing departure from routine tikka masalas and rogan joshes. While highly flavourful, the dish was spicy but not overly fiery, rendering it a fine choice for those with low heat tolerances. Pumpkin Masala was a fantastic alternative to the ubiquitous Bombay Aloo. The pumpkin was tender but not mushy and held its own against the masala spices. Chicken Green Masala was convincingly herby from the coriander and sweet basil; the chicken was tender and juicy. The dish had a bit of a kick so was a decent partner for the other two more mild choices. Garlic naan was as to be expected: slightly stretchy, garlicky, and warm – a perfect implement for wiping up the last splatterings of curry.

Eat in or takeaway, the food is confidently prepared, delicious and intensely satisfying. My palate may be more experienced and my hangovers fewer, but Khan's continues to impress. 11 years after that first introduction, I'm still hooked.

Khan's of Brixton, 24 Brixton Water Lane, 0207 326 4460. Dinner for two was £45, BYOB.

More from Lindsay at blondevsbland.com

RECIPE: Peanut tablet

BY MISS SOUTH, FOOD EDITOR

Sometimes you just need something sweet, usually around 4pm in the afternoon I find. And while sugar will never be seen as a health food, you can make your treats have the edge by knowing exactly what is in them rather than looking at the back of a wrapper and wondering what fructose-glucose or maltodextrine is. There are few things sweeter than the Scottish treat of tablet, but it does have the advantage of having only three basic ingredients creating its unique crumbly texture.

I've given it a modern twist here with some sweet chilli roasted peanuts, but you could keep it plain or add anything you fancy. This is made in a straightforward way in the microwave, meaning less washing up, less chance of a molten sugar accident and less effort beating the mix to get the texture right.

Tablet with roasted chilli peanuts (makes about 32 pieces)

- » 100g skinless raw peanuts (available at Wing Tai)
- » 2 tablespoons sugar syrup (equal amounts brown sugar and water)
- » 1 teaspoon chilli powder
- » 4 shakes hot sauce
- » 1/4 teaspoon sea salt
- » 454g (1lb) granulated white sugar
- » 142g (5 fluid ounces) evaporated milk
- » 113g (4 ounces) butter



Begin with your peanuts. This will make enough to have leftovers if you don't eat them all immediately. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper and heat the oven to 180 celcius. Mix the nuts with syrup and chilli and roast until golden for about 15 minutes. Leave to cool.

Before you start the tablet, make sure you have everything ready. Rushing around hot sugar is not a good idea. Line a square baking tin or dish with tinfoil and make sure you have a very deep dish to make the tablet in. I used a Tupperware container deep enough to hold a loaf of bread which meant the sugar didn't spill over.

This is just the easiest thing to make. Put the butter, sugar and evaporated milk in the dish together and cook in a 800W microwave for 12 minutes, stopping and stirring it about every 2 and a half minutes, keeping an eagle eye on it all. It will thicken and become darker and more butterscotch in colour after that amount of time.

Tablet differs from fudge in that after the sugar has reached the right temperature, you beat it to add air to it to obtain its unique granular texture. So after the 12 minutes are beat the mixture with an electric whisk or a wooden spoon for at least two minutes. It will go from sticky to an almost powdery texture that lifts away from the side of the dish in one piece. Add the peanuts at this point and mix well before pouring into your lined dish.

Mark the tablet into squares of about half an inch. Anything more is too rich to eat in one go. Allow the tablet to set for about an hour. It will be much drier than fudge. Then say you're only going to have one piece but manage to eat about four because it's so good with that little salty sweet crunch and creamy buttery texture. The rest will keep for several weeks in an airtight container for you to dip in and out of as you pass. This is properly no fuss tablet...

More at northsouthfood.com

Where garden meets kitchen

BY MISS SOUTH, FOOD EDITOR

A new project in Lambeth is seeking to combine the joys of gardening and eating and turn them both into a sociable, interactive activity to help encourage us to connect again with our food and our land. Squash and Bean Swap aims to have people grow crops from the squash or bean family from scratch, nurture them to picking and then feast on the fruit of their labour, before storing or swapping any excess amongst their community.

They've chosen squash and beans because they encompass a vast selection of items, are easy to grow in even small spaces and are eaten worldwide, but aren't especially well known in traditional British gardens and kitchens so allow the different communities of Lambeth to share and learn skills amongst themselves.

Growing from the Bandstand Beds project on Clapham Common and Incredible Edible Lambeth, the Squash and Bean Swap seeks to swap seeds or seedlings, skills and produce both in person and across community groups on Twitter and Facebook. They'll be tying in with the Chelsea Fringe Festival in May and June to help people get planting now the frosts have hopefully passed. People can come together and grow friendships, work skills and food over the summer months before preparing their produce to plant again next year.

Squash and Bean Swap is a new collaborative voluntary scheme seeking to engage people on their own terms. They are looking to add people to their team to help map the growing and swapping online to help it lead forward into the next year so if you have the webskills needed for this, contact Fiona on info@bandstandbeds.org.uk or come along to a compost swap on the Common and talk in person.

These get togethers will allow people to meet, combine interests and combat the fact that Lambeth is poor in garden centre pro-



SWAPSHOP: Bandstand Beds, Clapham

vision. This should make it easier for people without cars or on low incomes to join the Squash and Bean Swap so that everyone can enjoy the psychological boost of creating their own produce and food.

Keep an eye out at www.bandstandbeds.org.uk or search Facebook for The Incredible Edible Squash and Bean Swap to find out about networking throughout the borough, chat to other participants and find out about the upcoming feasting events that will celebrate and share the food grown. Hopefully this will link up with the Lambeth Horticultural Show and people can also show off the biggest pumpkin or the tallest beans to add a little competition to the mix as well.

So dust off your trowel, eye up a spot for a window box, decide which bean or squash you'd most like to try growing and get stuck into this fantastic community project. There will be tips, encouragement and recipes over the coming weeks so don't miss the chance to try something new in the borough!

ILLUSTRATION

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Illustration by Kaylene Alder for Brixton Bugle

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TAKE FIVE Ella Taylor



Ella, eight, attends Jubilee Primary School. Here she shares her five favourite Brixton things:

5. Jubilee primary summer fair

29th of June, This is good for kids. Some Features include a raffle, steel band and a bouncy castle

4. Brixton village

Amazing place to be; I work there on Saturday, sometimes Friday.

3. Green Workshop

Sometimes I also work here on Saturday. Located in Brixton village.

2. Brixton library (and Windrush square too!)

Great for Bookworms, studiers and anyone interested. Windrush Square has lots of things for lots of people. The Ritzy, the picnicking space and the stone thing are popular.

1. Lambeth country show

(Normally held in Brockwell Park) Amazing. All I can say is... WOW! THIS PLACE IS AMAZING!!!!

Growing space

Garden, balcony or window-sill? What to plant this month, by Fiona Law.

Neon is in the clothes shops this spring – very soon you could have it in your kitchen garden too! Chard ‘Bright Lights’ is a leafy veg with mid-ribs of stunning pink and yellow. Swiss chard or leaf beet is an easy and tasty crop that you can’t buy in the supermarket. It’s ‘cut and come again’ and you can use it year round. Eat baby leaves raw in salad; bigger leaves can be shredded in stir-fry or an omelette, wilted with pasta, or steamed. Different varieties have coloured attractive stems: ‘Ruby’ and ‘Fantasy’ are a darker red, or you can also go for classic white with ‘Lucullus’, for example.

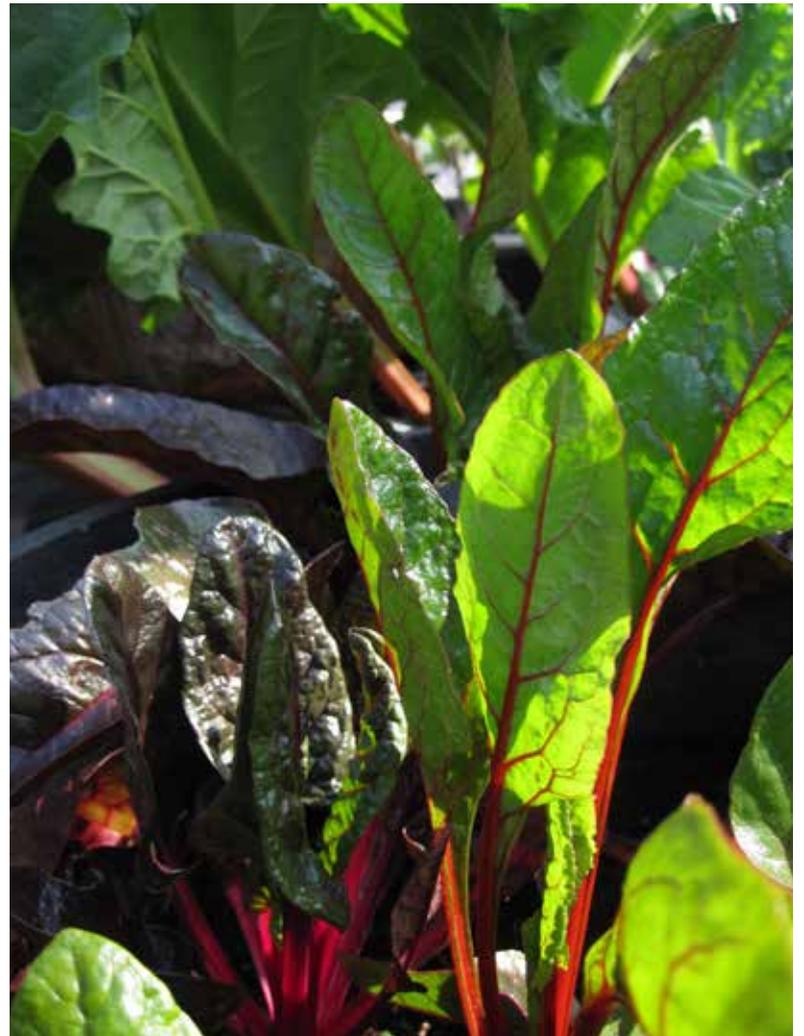
Now the soil is warming up and drying out sowing can start in earnest. Chard, lettuces, radish, turnips, spinach and carrots are some crops you can sow direct into prepared drills, or rows. To prepare a seed bed, use a hand fork to turn over the soil to a depth of 15cm or so. Use a rake to remove stones larger than a centimetre. Break up lumps on the surface so that you

have a fine tilth, and the tiny seeds can nestle in particles of a similar size. With a dibber, stick or pen draw a shallow depression in the soil, carefully water the drill with a dribble from a watering can. Space the seeds. The seed packet will tell you the sowing depth and distance. Lightly draw the sides of the drill over and pat down. Don’t water again on top of the drill as this will make the fine soil go hard and the little seedlings won’t be able to push up!

Growing in drills makes it clear which seedlings are crops and which are weeds. Weeds will love the fine tilth you’ve made. You can hoe between the rows to remove them, and watering between the drills will encourage the seedlings to put out long roots for stronger plants. If you only have a pot-sized space, sow for baby leaves and leave one or two plants to grow bigger. Bon appétit.

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

Follow @vivekagardens @lambethpoly @bandstandbeds



Little Brixton

There’s more to school than just literacy - and this is just what the people at The Family School at Larkhall (off Brixton Hill) feel. The Family School is a small, alternative school “where children are free to be themselves and where learning is a natural part of enjoying and exploring life”.

I attended the Parent and Child (Under 4s) Group which meets on Monday and Tuesday mornings each week during term time from 9.45am-11.45am and cost £6 per session per child (siblings under 14 months attend for free) and was very excited to find a wide range

of resources including a lovely library of books, musical instruments, a pretend shop, plenty of toys, a lovely outdoor play area and plenty of space to explore. There’s also a shoes-off policy (which I am a big advocate of!) and no set activities such as singing so it’s great to let little ones play and learn however they wish. It’s exciting to know that Lambeth has such a range of different schools on offer - don’t forget to also check out The Waldorf School of South West London too for another alternative approach to education!

littlelambeth.blogspot.com

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News from Lambeth Council ...

Fostering Fortnight - could you help a child?

We have many children in our care at Lambeth and they deserve the chance to grow up in a safe, loving and secure home. We are particularly in need of carers who can offer care for teenagers and young people who have been remanded to Lambeth by the courts, as well as carers for babies, children with a disability, and children who need a break from their natural parents (respite care). To reflect the diversity of the borough, we need people from a range of backgrounds, races, religions, languages, ethnicities, sexualities and genders.

Esther Davis has fostered two children for the last six months. She explains what fostering means to her. She said: "I foster because I have children of my own and I just felt like giving something back to others. I have such a brilliant team of social workers and supervising social workers who are always there whenever you needed them.

"My fostering experience has been brilliant, it's been a challenge but it is very rewarding to know you have given love and stability to a child. Also to know a family is now happier because of the trust and reassurance you have built with them."

During Fostering Fortnight (13-26 May) we will be having roadshows in Brixton High Street, between Morleys department store and Body Shop, Monday-Friday- come and see us to find out more! We are also holding informal drop-in sessions at Lambeth Town Hall, SW2 1RW on 28 May, 25 June and 30 July from 4.30-5.45pm on each date.

If you would like to talk to someone about being a foster carer or want more information call **020 7926 8710** or email fosteringandadoption@lambeth.gov.uk



Tell us your views on Clapham Fire Station

You can have your say on the future of Clapham Fire Station at a public meeting on 16 May. The meeting has been organised by the London Fire Authority to listen to Londoners' views on their proposal to make budget savings and close 12 stations in the capital, including Clapham Fire Station. The meeting will be held in the Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RW from 7 to 9pm.

In January, fire crews from Clapham were among the first on the scene following the fatal helicopter crash in Vauxhall. They were praised for their work which helped to save lives and protect the public following the crash.

The public consultation about the future of Clapham Fire station ends on 17 June. To see the Fire Authority's consultation documents and proposals for closing fire stations go to www.london-fire.gov.uk/LSP5-public-meetings.asp

For more information about Lambeth's campaign to save Clapham fire station go to www.lambeth.gov.uk/saveclaphamfirestation

safer communities



Get composting this Spring

As part of Compost Awareness Week (6 to 12 May), we want to remind you of the special offers and support we can give you to start composting at home.

All Lambeth residents can buy discounted compost bins and wormeries at www.getcomposting.com

With compost bins starting at just £11 and free delivery, it's a great opportunity to reduce the amount you throw away while creating a rich compost for your pot plants and flower beds.

You don't need a large outside space or lots of garden waste to compost, you can put food waste, tea bags and even shredded paper in a standard compost bin and wormeries are perfect for balconies and small patios.

Once you have your bin or wormery, we can provide all the information you need to get started and provide ongoing support to ensure that you get the most out of your new bin. Visit our website www.lambeth.gov.uk/composting or contact our Compost Doctor who will be happy to answer any questions you have, email him at compostdoctor@lambeth.gov.uk

cleaner streets

SPORT

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Boxing at Miguel's gym

We continue our focus on Brixton boxing with a visit to the legendary Miguel's gym

BY LAURA DICKINSON

Under the railway arches, past the car mechanic, down the alley, you come to Miguel's gym, a boxing club that defies all stereotypes about the sport.

"People are always going to think 'boxing isn't for me,'" explains Sarah Trevett, the gym's manager. "But there are so many people whose minds we've changed."

Heading up to the main gym floor, it's clear there isn't a typical punter. Among the punching bags swinging from the ceiling, you find men and women of all different backgrounds.

"We've got unemployed kids with nowhere to go. We take them under our wing and give them a focus in life. We've got the white

collar guys from the city who take their day out on the bag and sweat it out," explains Sarah. "Then you've got those people looking for a goal in life. Some people sign up for a marathon; some people decide they want to fight."

I'm struck by how many women there are, too. Is this the Nicola Adams effect?

"At the Olympics, a lot of our British women boxers did better than the men and it made people think: I could do that," replies Sarah. "They've seen boxing on TV and realised women can fight, women can be good boxers."

Ask anyone at Miguel's to describe boxing and they'll say it's an art, a craft or a discipline. I watched as one trainer taught his client the techniques, explaining that there are seven different blocks to defend just one type of jab.

"People think it's no different to a pub punch-up. They don't see

it as a technical sport," laments Sarah. "But it is. There are different types of punches; there are different combinations to use. Similarly there are lots of different defences; it's not just attack, attack, attack."

Isaac Chamberlain has been coming to the gym since he was 11 when his mum, struggling to control him, brought him to Miguel's. "I was a loose cannon," admits Isaac. "I was in with the wrong crowd, getting into fights. I had this rage to fight all the time."

Now aged 19, Isaac is a heavy-weight boxer who has won numerous national titles. He hopes to compete at next year's Commonwealth Games and eventually to turn professional.

"Before, I used to think I could do anything: not listen, mess about. I didn't have no fear," recounts Isaac. "But now boxing has taught me that you have to work for what you've got. You only get out what you put in."

It hasn't always been easy. Miguel, the gym's founder says he's thrown Isaac out of the gym three times: "He kept smashing things at the gym, but he always came back."

Miguel's takes part in a court referrals scheme where young offenders are required to help out at the gym as part of their punishment, cleaning, painting walls and sweeping the gym floor.

"Some of the biggest challenges we've had have been with the kids who come through the door. They come with an attitude," says Miguel.

The gym tries to help them turn their lives around. Many of the young offenders stay on to box after they've completed their service and some are trained to become personal trainers. "By the time they leave it's a totally different



TOUGH: Sparring partners take a breather. Picture by Alistair Hall

person who walks out that door," says Miguel.

Miguel's, as Sarah concedes, is not your typical boxing club. They have sought to find a model where they can support the local community while being able to stay open. That's why they support amateur boxers and provide clients with classes and personal training. It's part boxing club, part gym.

"We help ourselves, we don't get help from nobody," says Miguel. Indeed, unlike other sports, boxing associations

give notoriously little support to community based work. Miguel's occasionally receives boxing gloves and other equipment from the Amateur Boxing Association, which helps, but the gym needs to run paid for classes to enable them to support the young locals who are often able to pay no more than £3 or £4 a visit.

The gym's commitment to Isaac

has clearly paid off; boxing has helped him both inside the ring and out: "You're gonna have people who dislike you and want to make you angry. There's always haters. Boxing disciplines you to stay calm; it's a gentleman's sport. All of life's pressures you know how to deal with it in a professional manner."

"A lot of people haven't accomplished what I've accomplished at my age," philosophises Isaac. "I want to motivate everyone who comes in here with my story.

I say to them: No matter what happens in your life, you're the one who's in charge of it. Life is about 10% of what happens to you and 90% of how you react to it."

That seems to be the philosophy underpinning boxing at Miguel's. Give it a go and take what you want out of it. You might just find boxing is for you.

"Boxing has taught me that you have to work for what you've got. You only get out what you put in"



HEAVYWEIGHT: Isaac Chamberlain has been coming to the gym since he was 11. Picture by Alistair Hall



Council employee runs two marathons in two days

Not content with running one gruelling 26.1 mile course at the London Marathon, one council employee completed two marathons in two days.

Joe Derrett, head of media at Lambeth council, will ran the full London marathon on April 21, before getting up the next day to

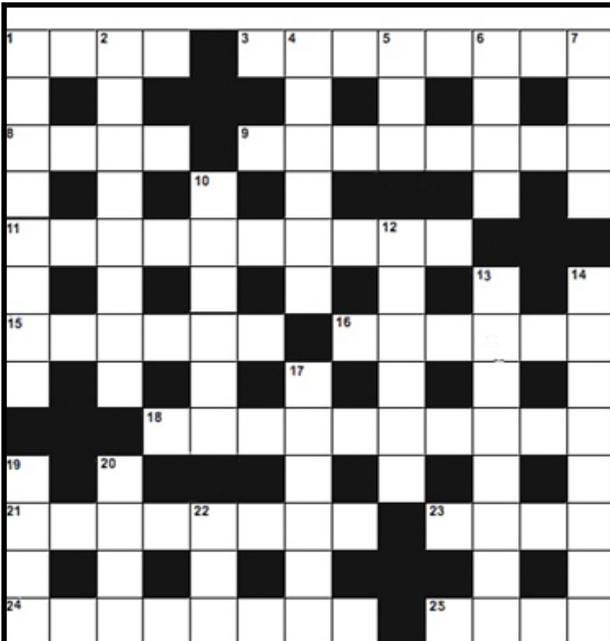
do the whole thing again, backwards.

Speaking at the end of day two, Derrett told the Bugle: "I'm exhausted but really happy. The second leg was long and really tiring.

"Thanks to some very generous donations I've raised over £1800."

The feat was made more remarkable by the fact Derrett suffers with Type 1 diabetes.

He was running for the London Community Foundation which raises vital funds to support local charities in Lambeth, like the Ebony Horse Club in Brixton.



QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- Land measure (4)
- Forbid (8)
- Licks; lengths (4)
- Upright (8)
- International award (5,5)
- Morons (6)
- Stick (6)
- Moving staircase (10)
- Sound of a bell (4,4)
- Even; light haired (4)
- In a flat voice (8)
- Gambles (4)

Down

- Ocean (8)
- System of government without a monarch (8)
- Stop working (5)
- Chicken (3)
- Lip of a vessel or hat (4)
- West African country, capital Lomé (4)
- Dishes (6)
- Astrological system of twelve signs (6)
- Do up (8)
- Puddings (8)
- Piece of artillery (6)
- Made (anag) (4)
- Unnamed (4)
- Morse code signal

No.2 Set by Josie

First win for A.J. Carter

A young Brixton boxer won every round of a four-round contest in Essex in what was his first professional heavyweight boxing match.

In a fight televised live on Eurosport last month, 25 year-old A.J. Carter squared up against Paul Morris, a vastly more experienced boxer with 22 fights to his name. This was A.J.'s first pro fight and he has done five amateur fights before now.

The judges scored 36-40, awarding every round in A.J.'s favour. Stuart Everitt, a Brixton resident who

was present at the match said: "A.J. won on points, though he threatened to knock Morris down from the start."

In an interview with the promoters, A.J. said: "I don't think there's any point in getting involved in boxing if your not looking to reach the top. My goal is to try and become a world champion, I don't want to set my sights any lower than that. I don't want to limit my goals so I look to the very top."

Read our interview with A.J. Carter over at www.brixtonblog.com