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September 2014

Tower block fears for Brixton Hill

A 22-storey tower block could soon loom high over central Brixton, under draft plans revealed by Lambeth council.

The building would replace the current Hambrook House as part of the Your New Town Hall development, which will see council office space and hundreds of flats created on the site of four council-owned buildings.

Lambeth boasts the development of the new town hall campus will preserve the historic town hall while creating a new council office, community space and hundreds of building jobs for local people. They also say they "aim" for 40 per cent of the 272 new homes to be "affordable", but have failed to provide any guarantees.

The proposals are currently under consultation by residents, with a planning application expected early next year.

Writing in *The Brixton Bugle* this month, Bill Linskey said:

"Why does there have to be so much redevelopment in the centre disrupting parts that should be left to develop organically?"

"Why such overdevelopment at the Town Hall site that we are to have a 22-storey block of flats looming over St. Matthew's Church and the Town Hall?"

The mystery tower block, spotted by the Inside Lambeth blog last month, appeared on the latest plans published by developers Muse, and can be seen on their website at yournewtownhall.org. In the initial plan, illustrations showed a less imposing nine-storey housing block.

Under current proposals Town Hall Parade, Olive Morris House and Hambrook House will all be demolished to make way for housing and offices. The Wanless Road site in Loughborough Junction will also be developed as flats.

Cllr Paul McGlone, deputy



leader of Lambeth council (Finance & Investment), said: "The image shows just one of several options for the Your New Town Hall project, which we are still consulting on with residents. There

is currently a public exhibition on display in Lambeth Town Hall and I'd encourage everyone to come and have their say."

COMMENT: Future Brixton, the bigger picture, p9.

Inside...



ST MATTHEWS PROJECT AT 10: We're there as the inspirational football project celebrates its first decade supporting local young people.

Sports, p24



HERE'S TO THE FUTURE: There are some major improvements destined for Brixton Recreation Centre in the next few years. Max MacBride heads down there to find out more.

News Feature, p7

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

Pensioner attacked

Police are hunting two callous muggers who viciously attacked an 87-year-old man before stealing his distinctive gold chain.

The pensioner was sitting on a bench outside his home in Arlingford Road, Brixton when two men approached him. Police say one attacker then grabbed the victim's chain from around his neck, dragged him to the floor and punched him in the face several times.

After taking the chain the two men ran off towards nearby Brockwell Park. Both suspects are described as light-skinned black men in their late teens or early twenties. One was wearing a blue "fisherman's-type" hat and dark clothes.

The attack took place at around 11am on August 5.

Detectives from Lambeth's Robbery Squad have released this picture of the gold chain that was stolen in a bid to track it down. It is a heavy gold chain, with a pendant of a crucifix combined with an anchor.

Detective Constable Sarah Mustoe



MUGGED: This distinctive chain was taken from the victim

said: "The gold chain that was stolen is very distinctive and it is likely that the suspects have, or will try to sell it on, so we're appealing for anyone with information to get in touch with us. This was a violent robbery against an elderly man, and I'd urge anyone who might have information regarding

the identity of the suspects to come forwards as well."

Anyone with information should contact the Lambeth Robbery Squad via 101 or call Crimestoppers, which is completely anonymous on 0800 555 111.

College plans revealed

Lambeth College has revealed its plans for the redevelopment of part of its Brixton Hill Campus.

In a controversial move, the 'dilapidated' site was bought by

the Department for Education last year, and will be turned into a new "education campus". The new site will include a catholic-ethos free school as well as new facilities for

Lambeth College.

Current provision at the site will be replaced by 18 new classrooms, two IT suites, a café and a so-called 'informal learning zone'. Renovation work is due to be completed by September 2016.

A spokesman for Lambeth claimed the new Brixton centre will focus on preparing learners for work by providing English, Maths, ESOL, adult community learning and employability courses.

Mark Silverman, college principal, said: "These are exciting times for us all; the massive investment by Lambeth College is to realise our vision in becoming an outstanding careers college, providing the very best in career opportunities to many learners for many years to come.



Post please!

Shadow Business Secretary and local MP Chuka Umunna has called for tighter regulations on the privatized Royal Mail to protect state-owned post offices in Brixton and beyond.

Writing on the *Brixton Blog* in August, Chuka Umunna announced that, "if Labour is elected at the General Election next year, I have been clear that we would prioritise securing the future of our Post Office network."

The Royal Mail service was privatized in 2013 while post offices around the country remain state-owned. The so-called 'universal service obligation' currently means that the Royal Mail must deliver a letter posted from Brixton to anywhere in the country and must keep any fees at a uniform, affordable rate.

Umunna said: "Brixton is a place with residents from all over the globe and therefore it is particularly important for people locally that they are able to rely on the postal service to help keep them connected."

Worst pollution

Air in Brixton is nearly three times the national safe limit, new data shows.

Figures from the London Air Quality Network show average levels of nitrogen oxide at 145 micrograms per cubic metre of air. The abnormally high figures are thought to be due to heavy traffic along Brixton Road which sees a large amount of buses passing each day.

Public Health England estimates that some 112 people per year die in Lambeth as a direct result of air pollution.

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Picture: @LaurenSpearman

Knife drama

A man was left with apparent knife wounds to the head after an altercation on Acre Lane.

Police were called to Acre Lane, near the junction with Solon Road, at 5.15pm on August 20 where they found the victim in the street.

Chef Merrick Wilson, 40, of Oak Square, Brixton, has been charged with GBH and possession of an offensive weapon.

He was remanded in custody at Camberwell Green Magistrates Court on August 23 and will appear at Inner London Crown Court on September 5.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or with information should contact Lambeth CID by calling 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Market letter threatens traders

BY ZOE JEWELL

Indoor market traders are furious at a memo from owners InShops, stopping them from using any space outside the defined lines of their own units.

Markets Manager Rachid Ghilaine wrote to tenants on August 21 saying management had noticed that some restaurants were using pavement space belonging to neighbouring businesses.

He added: "For avoidance of doubt you are not allowed to sublet or let the use of the space outside your shop to anyone and you are not allowed to rent/use space which does not belong to you in the Markets."

InShops appear to be banning people from using space granted because of goodwill between neighbours with no money exchanging hands.

Traders have complained that if enforced the new rules would kill the market economy, which depends on being able to put tables outside in the evening to ensure enough space for the queuing crowds.

Binki Taylor, who owns Circus Brixton, allows her neighbour Brixton Grill to use her space once she has

shut up shop. In an angry letter to the market management, she wrote: "I have no objection if they or anyone else would like to use my space if it does not impede my trading when open or closed. Therefore I am extremely reluctant to ask them to remove themselves..."

She added: "Most people are eking out modest livings whilst trying to keep the creativity and individuality of the market that made it so interesting for people to come to in the first place. If this memo is enforced rigidly you will have a lot of empty spaces in the markets with people having to queue longer to eat."

Another owner uses the space outside a neighbouring shop for tables and chairs, with their implicit agreement. He did not want to be named, but said: "this is culturally accepted as the way we function. If they enforce it [the memo], it will dramatically alter the landscape in the market and prevent anybody from being able to make any money. This policy hits the small independent places... it would prevent the live music and put good staff out of work at one

stroke."

Philip Lamb, from Groupe Geraud which owns the market, said: "Traders are aware of the market regulation and from time to time we remind them of the requirements."

They are made fully aware of the

regulations prior to entering into their leases and are not legally able to trade outside of their lease premises.

There is no plan to use the enforcement of the yellow line as a means of pushing traders out and raising rents."

GCSE success



Mubarak Taibu, pictured above, is one of the Brixton students celebrating a bumper haul of GCSE results. Mubarak, from Evelyn Grace Academy, Shakespeare Road, bagged seven As and five Bs. He will now take his A-Levels at the Academy, and hopes to be the first person in his family to go to university. "Having African parents, they instil in you that education is the way forward, education opens doors," said Mubarak.

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"Leaving your child at LEYF is like dropping them off at grandma's place."
 LEYF parent



News

www.brixtonblog.com

Hatch turns business ideas into reality

BY BOBBIE LAKHERA

Aged 18 to 30, living in Lambeth with plans to be your own boss? If you have a promising business idea but need support to push it forward, the new Hatch enterprise incubator could help you turn your dream venture into a reality.

Budding entrepreneurs are being invited to Hatch's launch event on Thursday September 4 (6.30-8.30 pm) at Impact Hub Brixton in Lambeth Town Hall. This is an opportunity to find out how Hatch could support your enterprising ideas, as well as hear from established entrepreneurs as they share their own start-up experiences.

The launch and networking evening will see the incubator, based on Coldharbour Lane, formally open its call for applications for its second

cohort of Lambeth entrepreneurs. This follows their pilot group, known as the Y-Project, who finished the first programme pitching for investment at a Dragon's Den style event in July.

Dirk Bischof, CEO of One Planet Ventures, said: "It's no surprise that more and more 18 to 30 year olds go it alone. Youth unemployment in the UK is three times that of those over 30. Helping people build their own enterprise is our way of tackling these economic issues."

"Hatch is both a space and a programme for young entrepreneurs in Lambeth, to get the help they need starting-up. We did some pilot training and we figured out what support actually works for this age group."

www.hatch-incubator.org



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Park changing rooms are to become an outdoor 'sports hub'

The council recently agreed to a proposal to demolish the long-abandoned Brockwell Park changing room block.

The Brockwell Park Community Partners (BPCP) voted through plans in June to demolish the empty block, first built in 1926, and turn it into an outdoor "space for community-led sports facilities." This was then presented to a meeting of the council's Asset Investment Management Group in July when officers agreed to the proposal.

The BPCP group plans to landscape the area and install sports equipment, such as exercise bars or even a ping pong table, once the building is demolished. There are also long-term proposals to erect a modular building for sports classes such as yoga and pilates.

Ann Kingsbury, Chair of the BPCP, said it was decided that "the [outdoor] space would be more useful to the community at large than the changing block". If refurbished, she said, the building would have been managed by a leisure company and would not have had open access



for the community.

The costs for a full refurbishment of the block were also "absolutely prohibitive", said Ann Kingsbury. While the current plan is costed at roughly £600,000, a redevelopment of the building would be at least £1 million, without taking into account refurbishment and operating costs.

A spokesperson for Lambeth council said: "The next stage of the process will be to produce a delegated report recommending the demolition and once the report is approved we will then need to apply for planning permission to demolish the changing room block and appoint a contractor."

Bailiff threat for poorest

Lambeth sends more bailiffs to those on Council Tax Support than any other London council, a report has found.

According to research by London anti-poverty charities Child Poverty Action Group and Z2K, Lambeth is the London borough that uses the most bailiffs against people on support struggling to pay council tax bills.

Lambeth council referred a staggering 3,244 council tax support claimants to bailiffs in 2013/14, far more than the next biggest user of bailiffs, Hackney, which sent out 1,874.

Council tax benefits from central government were abolished in April 2013, while local authority subsidies were cut at the same time. The majority of councils in England, including Lambeth, chose

not to increase council tax to make up the shortfall, instead introducing 'minimum payment' schemes which required all working-age claimants



LAST RESORT: Cllr McGlone says Lambeth protects vulnerable

to pay some tax. The report, entitled 'A new poll tax?', stated that: "This has caused immense hardship for individuals and families, and made it more difficult for councils to collect council tax payments... it means that they have to collect council tax from residents who are unused to paying and, in some cases, have never paid before."

Cllr Paul McGlone, cabinet member for finance and investment, said: "The use of bailiffs is always a last resort. In terms of Council Tax Support, uniquely in London, our local scheme excludes any liability for the most vulnerable, such as pensioners, carers, disabled people and those families affected by the benefits cap. As such we would never use bailiffs in these cases."

In 2013/14 Lambeth council collected 95% of council tax due.

Free mag leaves council in pickle

A Government minister has written to council leader Lib Peck threatening action over the borough's free *Lambeth Talk* magazine.

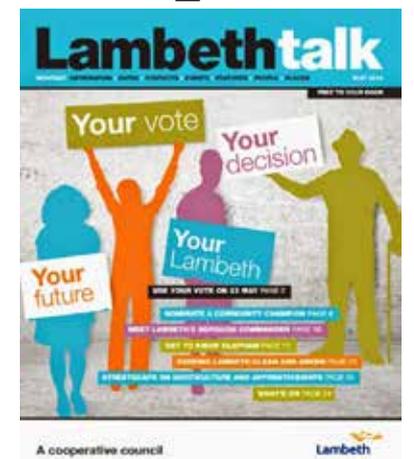
In a letter dated August 15, Local Government minister Kris Hopkins suggests that the monthly magazine, published by the council and delivered to every home in the borough, breaks rules set down by Secretary of State Eric Pickles limiting such 'freesheets' to four per year.

The letter adds: "I would ask you to now take steps to ensure publication in the future will be in line with

the Code's provisions... Where the Secretary of State considers that there is a risk that in future a Council will not be complying with the Code he will be minded to issue, in accordance with the statute, a written notice of a proposed direction."

The Publicity Code sets a range of provisions in relation to local authority publicity including the frequency, content and appearance of taxpayer-funded newsheets.

A council spokesperson told *The Bugle*: "*Lambeth Talk* plays an important role informing residents about council services and events."



Charity fun run by stroke survivor



A plucky Herne Hill resident who suffered a devastating stroke 22 years ago - aged only eight years old - is taking on a 5km run for charity.

Ella Mathew, now 30, underwent months of gruelling rehabilitation after the stroke. It took her months to learn how to walk again, let alone think about running.

But on September 21, six days before she gets married, Ella will tackle the Resolution Run in Hyde Park, for the Stroke Association.

Ella told *The Bugle*: "The stroke had such a huge impact on my life. Things I was doing as an active eight year old such as going to school, playing with friends and swimming, had stopped. It was a huge shock for me, but I was determined to not let it limit what I could do."

With the help of her mother, doctors and physiotherapists, Ella was walking again two months

after her stroke and started on the long road to regain her strength. "It took me a few years to be confident enough to run for longer than 25 metres," she says.

Luckily, communications officer Ella made a full recovery and is gearing up for her big run.

"I hope to not only raise awareness of childhood stroke, but also raise funds so they can carry on with their brilliant work," she says. So far, she has raised £535: "I'd like now to get to £800 or even £1000!"

"I am slightly nervous because I've never attempted anything like this before", explains Ella. "I just want to show people that even if things happen in your life that you don't want, you are in control of your life and you choose how to react to it."

Unsurprisingly, Ella's fitness regime is pretty rigorous at the moment. She works out at the gym

six times a week, where she does 45 minutes of cardio and weight training, in addition to yoga which she found "really helpful to relax the cramps I get in my right side".

"I want finish the race in under 40 minutes, but if it takes longer I'm not too bothered. The main thing is passing the finish line and feeling proud of myself," she smiles.

To sponsor Ella visit www.justgiving.com/Ella-Mathew/

The Stroke Helpline (0303 303 3100) provides information and support on stroke. More information can be found at www.stroke.org.uk



Left: Ella as a child before her stroke. Right: All smiles before her charity run in Hyde Park.

Advice service goes national

A pioneering support service trialed by Brixton Foodbank is set to be rolled out across the country.

The Trussell Trust is to pilot a financial advice service for its foodbank users which has already seen great success in Lambeth over the past 18 months. Advisors from Centre 70 and the Brixton Advice Centre have been imparting knowledge on debt, money management, benefits and housing to anyone who needs it at the Lambeth Foodbanks.

Elizabeth Maytom, who leads the Norwood and Brixton Foodbanks, cited occasions when the advice has prevented evictions or reduced debt repayments. She said: "It has been an amazing support to our clients."

New Rec nursery

A social enterprise called the London Early Years Foundation (LEYP) will open a nursery in the Rec this September, in partnership with the leisure centre managers GLL. The children at the nursery will have access to Rec facilities, including sports areas and the soft play area. There will also be a new crèche for parents who use the gym. June O-Sullivan, CEO of LEYP, said: "We aim to extend and enrich children's learning so that every child has a brilliant nursery experience. Working in partnership with parents and the local community is very important."

Brixton illustrated Black Cultural Archives

Brixton buildings wanted! This month's illustration is of the newly opened Black Cultural Archives, "a welcoming space for everyone to learn, explore and become inspired by Black British heritage and history." Tweet your ideas for beautiful Brixton buildings to @kpictures and win a free print if your idea is drawn. See more of Kaylene Alder's work at www.kaylenealder.com



Community go-kart track visit

Stockwell youngsters who came together to rebuild their own local go-kart track have been celebrated when a councillor visited their project.

Deputy Lambeth council leader Imogen Walker dropped into the Oasis Go-kart Track in Stockwell to meet those involved in the Build-it programme.

Young people from the Lambeth community took part in an 11-week project to regenerate the local go-karting track while also having the opportunity to learn skills and access training through the Build-it project.

Cllr Walker said: "Build-it is a great programme that has produced real results in giving young people in the borough the skills, attitude and experience to succeed in the job market.

"This type of support is vital in making sure every young person in Lambeth has the opportunity to fulfil their potential."

The Oasis Go-kart Track began in the early 1980s as part of local charity, Oasis Children's Venture. As well as being given the opportunity to race on the track, local young people can access a wide variety of other activities such as individual mentoring services, AQA courses in Volunteering and Kart Maintenance, and a range of life skills workshops.



ALL SYSTEMS GO: Cllr Imogen Walker drops in to the Oasis Go-kart Track

Build-it's refurbishment work took place across two phases, including repainting and repairing the office, the flooring and outside disability access ramp. There have also been improvements to the track including fixing pot holes and bringing a new layout to the track as a whole.

Jean-Pierre Moore, Right Track Manager, has been delighted with the work that has taken place and hopes it will attract more young people from the local area. He said:

"It's been amazing really. I cannot highlight enough how important this Build-it project has been for the track.

"The young people who use the project every day and put all their efforts into maintaining the karts and providing support to the other young service users really deserve a project that has been invested in as much as they do every day and the changes over the last few weeks will really help us bring in new customers and generate more money which we can

then re-invest in the young people who come to the club."

Build-it is a multi-partner programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund and led by London Youth in partnership with Cospa. The programme uses opportunities in construction to work with young people, some of whom may have previously been the most disengaged from education and the labour market.



Supermarket for LJ

Yet another 'convenience' supermarket is set to arrive in the heart of Loughborough Junction, if a new planning application is passed by Lambeth council. Plans for the empty plot at 220-224 Coldharbour Lane include a retail outlet on the ground floor, with seven private residences elsewhere. The council's Planning Applications Committee is expected to approve the plans at a town hall meeting on September 2.

Local residents, and the Loughborough Junction Action Group (LJAG), have complained that designs are "bland" and of "mediocre" quality. Other objections raised are around overcrowding in the area and poor refuse arrangements.

Anthea Massey, from LJAG, told *The Bugle*: "This is one of the most important sites in Loughborough Junction. We don't consider this design to be of a high enough standard for this location."

The proposal shows the ground floor with checkout areas, chillers and a large store at the back. It suggests it would receive up to three lorries each day, saying: "This estimation is based upon existing Tesco Metro and Sainsbury's Local stores and as such is considered to be accurate and robust."

There is already a Tesco Express store less than 50m from the site, and there were formerly plans for a Sainsbury's Local in the former Crown Inn a few yards the other way.

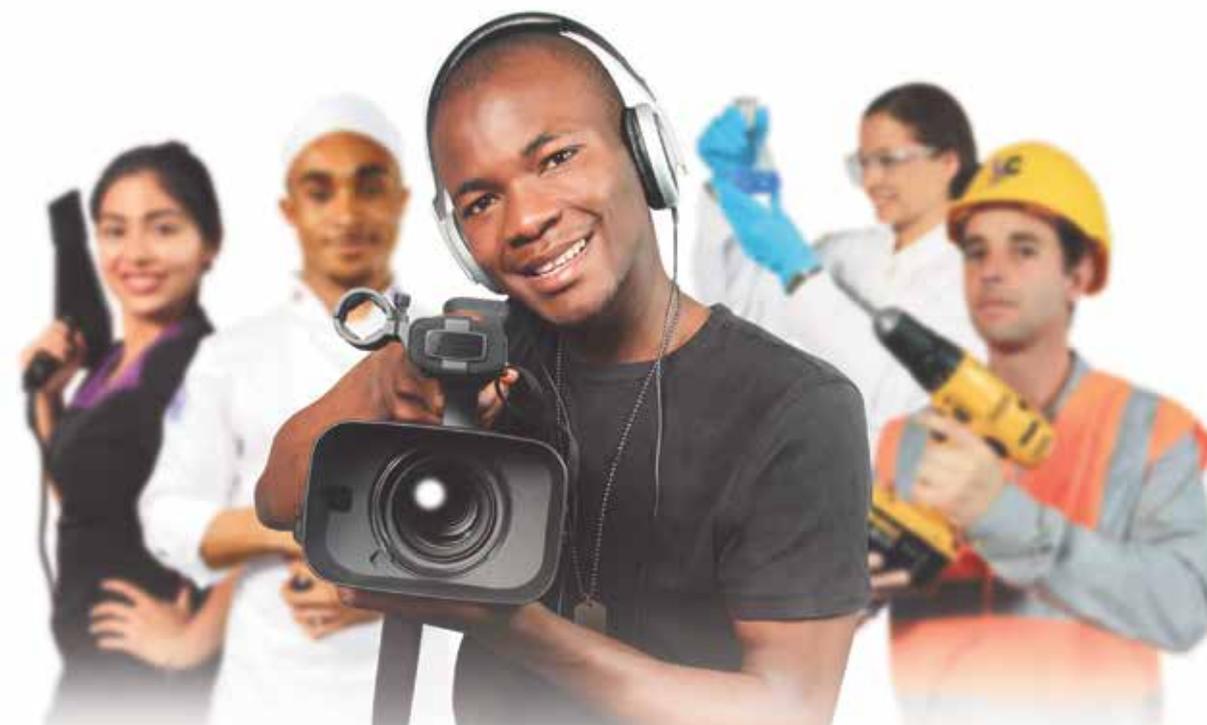
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Looking ahead at the Rec



Above: The Rec's manager, Darren Pope. Above right: The Rec's imposing facade. Below left: A new creche facility is due to open at near the Rec's entrance.

BY MAX MACBRIDE

With change afoot at the Brixton Rec, we decided to speak to some of the key players in its proposed redevelopment to get some perspective on what the future might hold.

Following the results of recent user and safety surveys by Lambeth council and Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) who manage the centre, the council has committed over half a million pounds to be spent immediately on essential maintenance. This will be followed by an investment of a further £9m over the next decade to replace the building's core systems which are coming to the end of their serviceable lives.

On the back of extensive campaigning pressure from users, local residents and this paper whilst the Rec appeared to be under threat of closure from 2012, the council now remains committed to a Rec which is a 'vibrant community hub and leisure centre in the heart of Brixton'. It has also resolved to 'maintain its integrity as an iconic Brixton building'.

Whilst there is commitment from the council to maintain the current core of the building structure, there is also recognition that the inside of the building requires major work. Cllr Jane Edbrooke emphasised the need to make decisions on the shape of the Rec "hand in hand with the community" over the coming years.

The initial £9m over 10 years will be unlikely to cover any more comprehensive or ambitious redevelopment, and so a two-stage capacity and feasibility study is underway to begin assessing options on this front.

"This is the beginning of the journey - it's all to play for," said Cllr Edbrooke. With Brixton on the doorstep of two major hospitals and obesity and diabetes big issues, Cllr Edbrooke also spoke of the importance of considering public health in the redevelopment. "We have an opportunity with Brixton Rec's status as a trusted central point of the community to be ambitious and make a big difference to public health and wellbeing."

We also spoke with David Duncan of the independent Brixton Rec Users Group (BRUG), which has been closely involved in consultations, to get their perspective on the state of play at the Rec.

David told us that generally speaking they are happy with the way things are progressing, and that the relationship with the council and GLL has changed dramatically for the better over the last 18 months. He puts this down partly to the pressure applied on the council and also to a change of management at the Rec.

There is an acceptance that changes will need to be made within the building, but that as long as the

council takes users with it, BRUG have confidence the right developments will be made. They are also pushing for more community-led activities in the Rec, and want to see the most made of the space, which David describes as 'criminally underused'. For instance, there are vast spaces off Beehive Place and Pope's Road which are unused and full of Lambeth council miscellany currently.

David spoke of the need for the Centre to be financially accessible. "Small community groups can't afford the commercial rates that GLL wants to charge at times."

Finally we met Darren Pope, the Rec's manager, who talked to us about the changing face of the Rec and his vision for the short and long term future. Darren showed us around the

soon to be unveiled crèche facility next to the entrance, which has had around £20k worth of work to what was previously a very underused space. It should be available to the community from mid-September.

There are also big plans for the front entrance area. The gloominess of this area is a common complaint amongst users, so it's good news that this will be receiving a facelift in the coming months. GLL intend to make the entrance the first thing you see, which it isn't currently, and also make the whole entrance open plan where the sets of sliding doors are currently. There will be a fast-track entrance area to alleviate queues amongst the Rec's 10,000 weekly users, with the sales lounge to be made accessible from reception so users can make

enquiries without queuing.

The upstairs changing rooms and gym areas are also due to receive major renovation in the coming months to meet 'health club standards', with work due to be completed by January.

Darren is passionate about the future of the Rec, but cautions over the need for sustainable development and the need for community involvement. "I want to wait and see what the surveyor comes out with. We've got to be looking at the future and what the people of Brixton want. We don't want flash in the pan development; we want change that will be sustainable."

Find out about how you can get involved at www.futurebrixton.com

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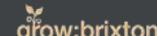
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YOUR TWEETS

Some of your #Brixton tweets:



@coulicalla:
Did you forget me in #BrockwellPark? #LostBunny misses you #Brixton @YoungLambeth @BrixtonBlog



@Scott-4Streatham:
#Brixton Let your opinions be heard yournew-townhall.org yournew-townhall@lambeth.gov.uk 20 storey block of flats is 1 option.

Join the conversation in #Brixton by Tweeting us @BrixtonBlog or @Brixton_Bugle



YOUR PICTURES: Atmospheric sunset over Brockwell Park lake. Thanks to Farukb who shared this evocative image - via Flickr - that shows that the park is a gift that keeps on giving. Keep them coming to our Flickr group www.flickr.com/groups/brixtonblog

HOW DO YOU READ YOURS?

Tweet us pics of your Bugle in odd places for a chance to win a Brixton Blog bag

@brixtonblog



Below left: Life's a beach: Jamila Omar keeps up to date on Shanklin sands, the Isle of Wight.
Below: The wilds of Wales: Leslie Manasseh, Preseli Hills, Pembrokeshire



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The Bugle by numbers

- SEVEN** the number of 'A' grades at GCSE gained by Mubarak Taibu
- £600,000** to redevelop the abandoned Brockwell Park changing room block
- 3,244** council tax support claimants referred to bailiffs by Lambeth council
- 13** the number of years that Bill has been working Lambeth Waste Management
- 23** special paving slabs in augmented reality project at Loughborough Junction
- 1955** the year Kalista Blackwood came to Brixton from Jamaica
- ONE LITRE** of Chocolate Ginger Ice Cream in our recipe on page 18

My Brixton Top Five



SIMON TICKNER

Known to pick up the drumsticks, strum the guitar or boss the karaoke on a Thursday night, the larger-than-life landlord of the Queen's Head interrupts his busy schedule to let us know his favourite things about Brixton...

1. Me

Ask anyone - I'm an arrogant hat-rack.

2. Brockwell Lido Health Suite.

If you're nocturnal and homeless then for a reasonable monthly fee you can live there...

3. Café Sintra, Stockwell Road

This is one of Brixton's best Portuguese cafés. The clams are peerless by the way.

4. The Grosvenor (R.I.P)

A curse will befall the yuppie types who forced its closure.

5. Delroy

Say no more.





The Brixton Blog and Bugle
Est. 2012

Oh, the Brixton summer is at an end, isn't it? The weather is undeniably autumnal as start September, though we're still hoping for a repeat of last year's heat. It's at this point that morning swims at the Lido are looking a little less appealing, but we're told by the hardy Icicle swimming club that if we make it through to October then we'll be able to withstand everything. Not so sure...

The longer term future of Brixton, far beyond October, is being discussed a lot in this issue, from the possibility of a massive tower block on Brixton Hill to the fate of Brixton Rec and Bill Linksey's critique of the council's plans for the whole of Brixton. Issues of regeneration and gentrification are being fought on every corner, as Jo Parkes tells the tale of Cressingham Gardens on page 9 and the indoor market traders share their anger at management cracking down on use of space outside restaurants on page 3.

At the Bugle we are thinking about our future too. This autumn, we are asking for some crowd-funding to help the Brixton Blog and Bugle step up editorial coverage by paying a small team to run the newspaper. In the past year we've managed to raise just enough to start paying an editor a few days a week but we need help to truly grow. We want to make the somewhat revolutionary idea of a sustainable local paper a reality! If you've enjoyed reading this issue or if you regularly read the Brixton Blog, do pop over to www.brixtonblog.com/donate to sign up for a monthly or one-off donation. There'll also be a crowd-funding campaign online in October, so look out for that too. And many thanks in advance from the Brixton Blog team.



FUTURE BRIXTON - The bigger picture

BILL LINSKEY

"Future Brixton" is Lambeth council's umbrella term for the redevelopment proposals at Somerleyton Road, Brixton town centre, and the Town Hall site; it even has its own website, futurebrixton.org. What links these three sites; what is the bigger picture?

All the consultations have concentrated on the detail – do you prefer option "A" or option "B" – and shied away from the fundamental questions of what it's all about. What is so wrong with Brixton that it needs all this redevelopment?

Much of the railway side of Somerleyton Road is literally a waste of space and some form of redevelopment seems to have considerable community support. In Brixton town centre something has to be done with the ice rink site and the station entrance. The key driver for change at the Town Hall is the idea of co-locating as many as possible of the shrinking number of Lambeth staff to save public money. And overarching all this is the desperate need for more housing.

So there's nothing fundamentally wrong with the plans? Well, dig a little deeper. Why at Somerleyton Road is the best thing that the council can say is that it is, "aiming for at least 40% at council rent" (Future Brixton website) when it owns the



land? Why does there have to be so much redevelopment in the centre disrupting parts that should be left to develop organically? Why such overdevelopment at the Town Hall site that we are to have (on the most recent plans) a 22 storey block of flats looming over St. Matthew's Church and the Town Hall?

The answer, of course, is that there is no public money available to pay for what needs to be done; primarily, the provision of social housing. The only game in town is to let private developers build fabulously expensive housing that few local people can hope to buy or rent

The only game in town is to let private developers build fabulously expensive housing that few local people can hope to afford to buy or rent

in exchange for some "affordable" and, hopefully, some social rent housing. Even then we have to be careful of how the game seems to change as developments progress; look at what happened with the Barratt development in Coldharbour Lane. How much affordable housing was delivered compared to the original plans? No wonder the best the council can say is that it is "aiming" for a particular figure; it knows it cannot promise anything.

But given that we are in "the age of austerity", what else is the council to do, nothing? Well, it could wait a bit ...

The next general election is now less than nine months away and nothing is going to be built or, probably, even get planning permission in that time. What if a new, incoming government took a different approach and decided it was time to end the decades-long tax strike that the super-rich (individuals and big corporations) have been on. If they were to pay their proportionate share of taxes then the country's fiscal crisis would be solved without ordinary working people (or even the most comfortably off middle classes) needing to pay a penny more in tax. Then councils could be funded to build social housing and make public realm improvements without needing to let private developers take over.

Clearly our council does not think that a new government with the gumption to do that is going to be elected.

Bill Linskey is chair of the Brixton Society. He writes here in a personal capacity.

Why I'm fighting for my home

In December, Lambeth Council is due to decide the future of Cressingham Gardens, a popular low-rise estate of some 300 homes, bordering Brockwell Park. Join resident Jo Parkes on a personal journey through regeneration, for an insight into a contentious trend which is dramatically changing the lives of thousands of Londoners.

Voting has long been an activity I've taken pleasure in: each time I walk the path to the booths of Holy Trinity School, I well up with a pride in exercising my hard-won right. There's a hope that somewhere, someone, will note my choice and their

politics will be influenced for the better. My husband does a convenient postal vote, but I feel he's missing out on the poignant joy of a personal appearance.

This had until late been roughly the extent of my civic activity, besides the odd subversive conversation down the pub with like-minded Brixtonians. But the day Lambeth council announced its regeneration proposals for Cressingham Gardens, my excellent home for more than ten years, a new political zeal was born.

The threat of having your home stripped from you against your will, feels like real injustice. It's like being framed for

someone else's crime. There's a sense of being collectively punished for Lambeth's bizarre blend of chronic underspending and wastefulness over many years.

Rather than hide as metaphorical bulldozers line up, like some who may have felt beaten by the council rhetoric before this started, I decided to fight for an innovative repairs and

refurbishment programme, and show what a big mistake demolition would be. The small triumphs our 'Save Cressingham' campaign has won since Lambeth somewhat euphemistically first unveiled its intentions at a 'Summer Exhibition' in 2012, have fed that fire.

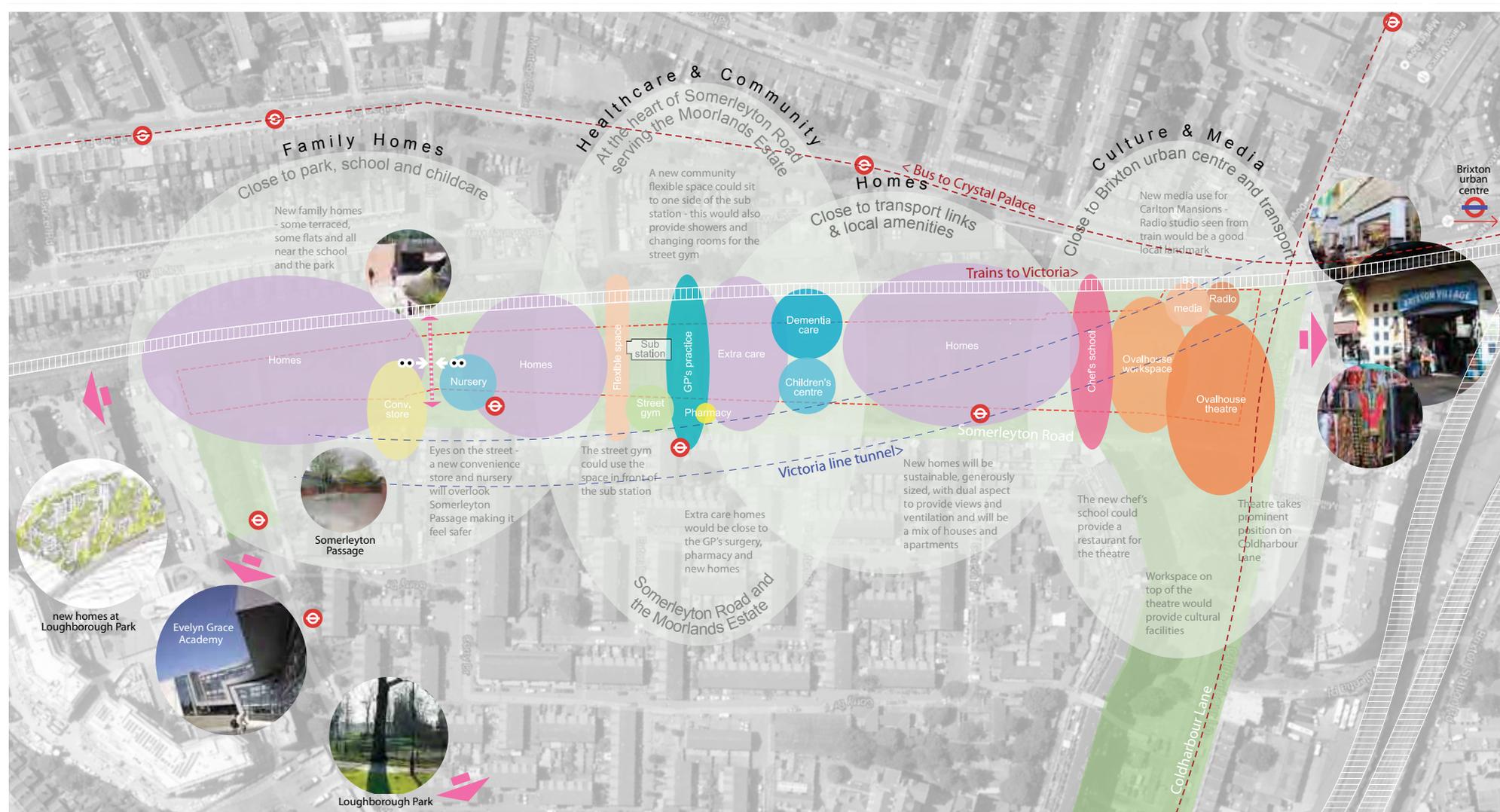
We spent the first year of the consultation persuading the council to commission an estate-wide structural survey, so at least we'd know the condition of the buildings, and how much it they would cost to fix. This seemed somehow preferable to the guesswork that had made meetings with the council regeneration team resemble a visit to Mystic Meg.

Two years down the line and we're still waiting for a robust costs breakdown, one of too many unanswered questions to mention now. But what the report reveals, is that there are only 'isolated structural', fixable, issues. Contrast this with some frankly hilarious myths that have been spread by the complicit over the years, such as: 'Did you know the estate is actually sliding down the hill?' I know who I'd like to see rolling down Tulse Hill, back to the Town Hall.

This venture trumps all my others all for wider significance. As a neighbour put it: "This is the meaning of life now."



Future Brixton



Somerleyton Road

Things are being done differently at Somerleyton Road. Local people have helped decide what should be part of the new development and the new team are working up proposals to show us how it could be achieved.

You've said you want a road for all ages run by the people who use it. With opportunities for

jobs, training and workspace. Where people pay a fair rent and can enjoy a social, creative and healthy life.

We'll need your energy and support to make this happen and will want you to let us know what you think about the latest proposals. Keep an eye on the website and come to one of the events over the next few weeks.

Your New Town Hall

Over the summer, Muse Developments and Lambeth Council asked local people for their ideas on the design of the indoor and outdoor civic spaces within the 'Your New Town Hall' project (YNTH). A number of 'Community Design' activities were undertaken – details of which can be found at www.yournewtownhall.org – and we welcomed visitors to our stall at the Lambeth Country Show (see photo).

The YNTH team will be going out to public consultation on the next stage of designs for the project, including the new homes, in autumn; keep an eye on the website

for more information. Also, look out for Youth Council's film, funded by Muse Developments, as part of the Still Moving film festival.



grow:brixton

grow:brixton's plans will be considered by the council's planning committee this month. If approved it'll be full steam ahead for the team of local **award winning architects and urban designers** who won the chance to transform the Pope's Road site for the next three years.

grow:brixton is now looking for tenants for the 33 affordable workspace units split between studio, live/work and retail. If interested sign up via growbrixton.co.uk. There will also be training positions covering horticulture, construction, hospitality and events.

And in the meantime, as part of Brixton Design Week 15-21 Sept, you can see a fitted out shipping container set in a landscaped surrounding to show what's to come. grow:brixton are also hosting a Brixton Pound party on Thursday 18 Sept and co-hosting the Still Moving Film Festival with Photofusion. Go to sillmovingfilm.org.

the faces of **BRIXTON**

PART II: MEET BILL

BY KATHRYN AEDY
PICTURES BY ALEXANDRA WAESPI

You've probably noticed the numerous people working around Brixton, who wear shirts with the words, Taking Pride in Lambeth peeking out from under fluorescent yellow vests. Bill is one of those people, and has been working with Lambeth's Waste Management team for thirteen years.

Like many of the team members, Bill always gets the job done and still manages to make friends with the local business owners and residents who frequent the Brixton Overground Station area. The Waste Management guys don't have to worry about each other's work ethic: "Everyone knows what they're doing; they just go and do it every day."

Different crews are responsible for collecting and organizing rubbish on a couple of specific streets. Then the three-man compactor team, which Bill is a part of, picks it all up to be processed and recycled. The compactor area on Pope's Road functions as a sort of headquarters, where Lambeth staff can find bin bags, trolleys, and brooms and raise any concerns about malfunctioning equipment. The entire team witness all kinds of food being thrown out every day, but they make sure that any produce that

can't be sold in the market is separated to be used as pig feed. They also see everything from beds, to iPods, to an entire season's wardrobe thrown out - it's never a dull day at the office.

But that's not to say that all the work is easy. Working outside year-round means facing the elements every day. Some of the staff work through the night, and as Bill acknowledges, even without rain or snow, at "6 o'clock in the morning it's cold, man." The Waste Management guys always have to be prepared for the weather, for their own wellbeing, but also for everyone else's. This is why, for example, they preemptively salt the roads when a snowfall is expected. Where does the team take cover in a heavy downpour? Without a proper shelter at the compactors, the only place to go is under the bridge. This is a challenge that Waste Management hopes will soon be resolved by the council, so that productivity doesn't have to be hampered by the unforgiving London weather. Nevertheless, as Bill adds, it's easy to like your job when you work in Brixton, where people are "happy and jammin'," and where you're constantly able to get to know people from all over the world.



Dominic West takes pride in new film

BY KEITH LEWIS

Pride's star-studded cast and strong underdog theme should make the film a global hit. The unlikely coming together of London's gay community with a group of Welsh miners promises to evoke all the emotions. For Brixtonites though, there's added local interest...

Jonathan, one of the film's key characters, is a long-standing Brixton resident. And he is being played by The Wire star, Dominic West. So I'm in (the real) Jonathan's kitchenette and we're watching the film trailer together. It cuts to a scene on the dance floor of a community hall, somewhere in Wales' Dulais Valley.

Just one man is dancing amongst the local ladies. "This is a first, this," says one to Jonathan, who's dancing by her side. "Welsh men don't dance."

Another lady adds in agreement, "Welsh men can't move their hips."

Spurred on by this, West's character jumps into life, throwing himself around the dancefloor to the tune of Shame Shame Shame – his arms and legs are tentacles reaching for the attention of onlookers.

lot of it was real. Look, I made those myself..." He points to the trousers in the picture. "They captured my clothes really well in the film."

In 1985, Jonathan did a trouser-making course at the Strand Centre on Tulse Hill. It was the time of the GLC, when people could do any number of courses for a pound.

"Livingstone was the bees knees," Jonathan ruminates. After the course, he went on to study at the London College of Fashion – passing with the highest marks.

"What did I do then... well, I didn't really fancy Savile Row," he laughs. "I wanted to find a better fit. And then his break came. Sat with his portfolio in hand, waiting for an interview in the offices of the English National Opera, Jonathan noticed something on the wall: it was a heartfelt memorial to a staff member who had recently passed away because of HIV.

"That sort of openness was rare back then. And I knew straight away it was a place I wanted to work," says Jonathan. It was here that he became a 'cutter' on numerous shows, and in the film you'll catch glimpses of



The infamous photo of Jonathan at the LGSM dance at the Dulais Valley Community Centre.

"...I don't even remember dancing, but I guess this picture is the proof."

When the trailer finishes, I ask Jonathan "Did you actually dance like that?"

"Oh no," he says, laughing. "I don't even remember dancing, but I guess this picture is the proof."

He shows me a black-and-white image. It's the Lesbians and Gay Men Support the Miners group (LGSM), in that same community centre in the Dulais Valley. Jonathan stands prominently in the foreground, wearing some distinctive chequered trousers, and evidently cutting some sort of groove.

"They based that whole scene on this picture," he says. "In fact, the writer, Stephen Beresford, created aspects of Jonathan's character himself. But a

Jonathan's style: the bandanas, the beret (and of course, those chequered trousers).

He stayed with the English National Opera until the mid 1990s – that was when his own health gave out. "Back in 1982, I was an L1 – meaning I was one of the first people in London to be positively diagnosed with HIV. Of course, back then, nobody really knew much about it. You were learning along with the doctors. What saved me though, was that I didn't get involved in the cohort taking of the AZT drug. I didn't like the research methods."

Sadly, Jonathan saw most people that took that drug die around him. He became a poster boy for the

Terence Higgins Trust. "I remember walking into Clapham North tube one day, and being bombarded by my image on both sides of the platform. I had to walk out, it was a bit overwhelming."

So, with his health deteriorating further, he eventually had the fortune to meet an amazing doctor, Chris Taylor, at King's College. Taylor told him he had to do something or he wouldn't survive long, and they worked at finding the right mix of treatment.

Today, Jonathan shares a home with his partner, Nigel. The two of them have lived in Brixton, as part of a housing co-op, pretty much since they met back in the eighties. Jonathan's health is now under control. But when he first found out that he had contracted the virus, he admitted that he was not all that concerned about living.

"I tried to commit suicide. But I couldn't bear the idea of somebody else having to clean it up. Naturally, carrying this killer disease, I had a low self-esteem... certainly, The Sun newspaper was doing its bit to demonise HIV."

Jonathan's fortune changed in 1984. He was invited along to a stand against nuclear weapons, down at Aldermarston.

"I remember being very nervous," he says, "as we took the bus from the 'Gays The Word' bookshop in Bloomsbury. But it was on this trip that I met Nigel." He smiles. "Nigel was the one that brought me in, got me involved with the LGSM - he was the politically active one – a real socialist – and from this point on I was kept very busy."

It was around then that some of London's gay community wanted to support the miners. And that's the period the film focuses on.

"We saw them, like us, as a persecuted minority. Initially, we wanted to raise money for the

National Union of Miners. Their response was that they 'didn't want anything to do with poofs,' " says Jonathan. "But the Welsh Miners were open to our support."

The rest, we shall leave to the film. The question is then, does Dominic

know there was a gay Palm D'Or before that. But the first time I saw it... well, I was overwhelmed with sadness. I mean, I was seeing all these people again – friends that are no longer here because of HIV... The second time though, I really enjoyed

"London's gay community wanted to support the miners"

West do Jonathan justice?

"Well, Dominic came for tea," Jonathan says. "He sat right there," pointing to the sofa in the other room. "I made him a lemon drizzle cake... what a charming, unassuming man. What he does with my character is amazing. As I said, there is a lot of creation in the film but Dominic's notion of Jonathan is very attractive... I'd love to be him."

"The film won the gay Palme D'Or," Jonathan continues. "I didn't even

it for what it is. The writers, the cast, they've done serious justice to the story."

What's interesting is the impact that the events of that period have had. "Dai Donovan, one of the fundraisers, was hugely influential in getting gay rights onto the Labour Party's political agenda. Now look... we even have civil partnerships," Jonathan concludes.

Pride is released at the Ritzy on September 12.



Jonathan at home in Brixton, 2014. Picture by Keith Lewis.



Dominic West as Jonathan in a scene from upcoming film Pride.

BRIXTON BID

WE'RE TALKING BUSINESS

BRIXTON BUSINESS EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Brixton BID Environment theme group meeting
11:30am • 2/9 • 30a Acre Lane, Brixton • @BrixtonBID

Lambeth's Best of Business Awards
4/9 • Clapham • @LBL_Business

Herne Hill Music Festival
7/9 - 19/10 • Multiple venues • @HerneHillFest

Brixton BID Marketing & Partnerships meeting
12 noon • 11/9 • 30a Acre Lane, Brixton • @BrixtonBID

London Cycling Show
12/9 • Lambeth Town Hall • @Lambethsustrans

Brixton Design Week
13/9 - 21/9 • Brixton • @BrixtonDD

STILL/MOVING DSLR Film Festival
20/9 - 28/9 • Brixton • @Photofusionuk

HR SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

HR is one of those things that tends to go to the bottom of the pile and Danielle McDonald can understand why, time and cost plays a role.

Brixton BID would like to introduce Danielle McDonald, a Personal Growth Expert & HR Specialist. She helps to give business owners like you peace of mind by ensuring you are compliant with employment legislation, take the fuss out of HR, and help you build a team that lives your brand.

Danielle has worked for incredible brands such as Topshop and Urban Outfitters, where she managed and developed teams of 100+ employees at a young age.

Danielle is an Accredited Advisor for the Government's £30M Growth Vouchers Scheme and speaker for Start Up Loans UK on Recruitment and HR.

Danielle will be delivering FREE webinars in August and September to share what you need to know to protect your amazing business, and how you can do it without further delay.

With a proven track record of managing tribunal free HR departments with minimal appeals, Danielle will be sharing her knowledge and expertise to help you in your business. She will also be offering a special discount to the first 20 Brixton businesses who sign up for her HR support packages.

Contact the BID office, or see www.daniellemcdonald.com for details.

BRIXTON YOGA

Hello, my name is Gurpreet and at Brixton Yoga I'm leading community-focused, Vinyasa Flow classes.

Dynamic elements of the sequence to tone and sculpt the body are supported by more restorative elements to explore awareness of breathing and the body. My Modern contemporary yoga class features folk, neo-classical and electric music followed by meditation.

During my training as a Dance Psychotherapist I used yoga inspired sessions as therapy to support people in the community suffering from severe

mental illness. This sparked my interest in holding community focused yoga sessions in Brixton for everyone. You can join in and feel the benefits of yoga by attending my classes at 6 Somerleyton Rd opposite Brixton Village.

Each class is £5 and the plan is that this funding will help to support my charity which gives free classes to vulnerable groups.

For more information and our class timetable visit www.brixtonyoga.co.uk



Spotlight on MISS CUPCAKE

Tell us about your business?

In 2010 I started Ms. Cupcake as a tiny home business, where I would bake cakes at home and sell them at market stalls around the city. After a year the demand for the cakes was so high that I decided to open our shop in Brixton – which was to become London's first entirely vegan retail bakery. We have been slowly growing ever since and are due to open a large catering kitchen in the next few months to help with the expansion.

Providing 'Free form' baking is very interesting, can you tell us why you chose to do this?

When I was changing from being a vegetarian to a vegan back in 2009, I looked around for my local vegan bakery and was shocked there wasn't one in South London – let alone anywhere in the UK! I'm originally from Canada and there are loads of vegan bakeries in Canada and the US, so I was surprised there weren't any here. I eat a lot of cake, so if I wasn't going to be able to buy it from somewhere I realised I

was going to have to learn how to make it!

What makes Brixton such a unique place?

I love Brixton. I have lived here for over 10 years and have seen it go through so many changes. What never changes is the buzz that Brixton generates through its music, arts, food and the people. There is always something happening and that's the way I like it.

What were your initial impressions about having a Brixton BID?

When I first heard about Brixton BID I was really excited to meet other business owners who had an opinion on how they wanted to see Brixton grow. Often towns are forced into specific development plans by the council, but with the Brixton BID I could help to see through changes that I and other local business owners had a say in. I also was excited to be part of a greater community of business owners that were ready to commit their spare time towards taking action into

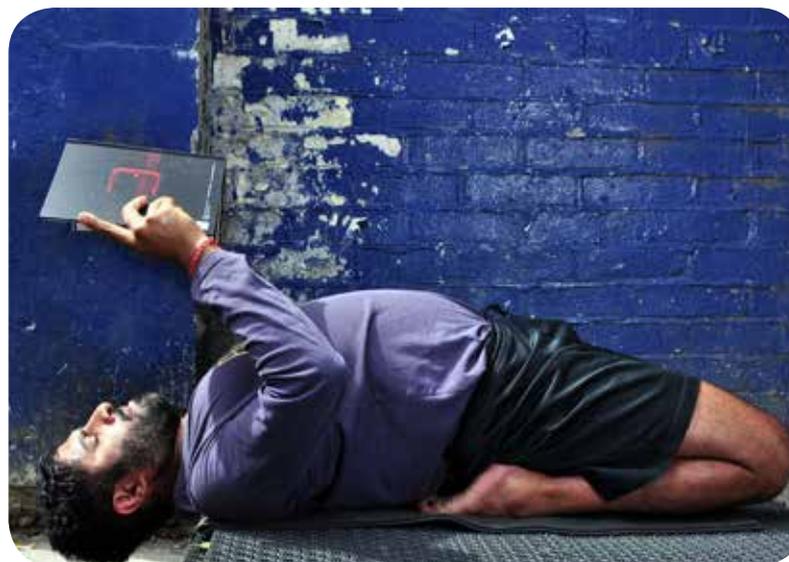
making Brixton a better place.

You are chair of the Partnership Theme Group, can you tell us more about the group?

The Partnership Theme Group is there to investigate and explore possible partnerships that Brixton BID can make with other groups, organisations and businesses. We specifically look for partnerships that would add value to the businesses and residents of Brixton. We also aim to support community events and local charities and find partnerships that would benefit all sides.

What is your future vision for the area?

Brixton will continue to grow and develop over the years – no doubt about that! I'm excited that people outside of Brixton have really started to recognise what an amazing and vibrant place it is. I think that it will always be a place that supports local and independent businesses that have a flair for creativity and a passion for driving the local economy forward.



The Brixton BID was voted in by local businesses, for local business, and its work is funded by your BID levy bills.

To register your attendance or find out how you can get involved contact us: info@thebrixtonbid.co.uk

Arts

www.brixtonblog.com

LAMBETH
HERITAGE
FESTIVAL

THE STORY SO FAR:

This is the second year the festival has run

—
Last year 1,486 visitors attended 35 events – an average of 44 people per event.

—
Lambeth's libraries have played a key part in the festival, with talks and workshops held at five local libraries.

—
Over 300 people attended the Lambeth Archives Open Day last year.

—
The Lambeth Treasures exhibition at the South Bank featured many documents and objects loaned by Lambeth Archives and attracted 15,000 visitors.

Designs on Brixton

BY RUTH WATERS

This year sees Brixton added to the list of destinations featured in the annual London Design Festival.

Brixton Design Week was instigated by We Love Brixton, a community organisation founded to celebrate the area in the wake of the 2011 riots. Its co-founders are 2MZ, a Brixton-based design and development company, who have worked with London's top designers and creative brands for nearly a decade. 2MZ will use their expertise to help deliver a week packed with exciting collaborations.

Multi-award-winning architect Carl Turner, whose Slip House in Brixton (right) won RIBA's Best House in the UK Award, will be part of Brixton Design Week, working with the Edible Bus Stop team to design an installation on the site of the former ice rink. Expect the unexpected from this collaboration, who will be bringing a 'living container village' to the site in the autumn.

Brixton East will be invaded by Brixi's Army – a troop of local designers headed by Brixton

Village's Brixi curator Emy Gray. The exhibition will include a horse box transformed into a cabinet of curiosities – an installation by Chelsea graduate and rising star Natascha Young.

Designer Jon Daniel, regular columnist for *Design Week* and award-winning designer of the Afro Supa Hero, is bringing his unique take on design in black culture and will produce installations around the centre of Brixton.

Brixton Design Week organiser Binki Taylor told *The Brixton Bugle* "Brixton is on the brink of enormous structural change at its town centre. It is also the home of a vibrant, innovative and creative community whose work has a global reach. Our aim is to capture this interesting combination; with the desire to protect all that is unique and fully embrace an innovative future. With local businesses and organisations such as the Brixton Pound and Future Brixton involved, we are forging some fantastic partnerships that will make Brixton, September 13-21, a destination for those seeking



out progressive design in London."

Also as part of Brixton Design Week, a number of local restaurants and shops will host designers in residence and exhibitions and there

will be talks by the Design Council and designer/makers group Crafty Fox. Follow the Brixton Design Week team on Twitter for regular event updates @BrixtonDD.

App at the Junction brings the past to life

BY BARNEY EVISON

Take a trip into the past this month at Loughborough Junction, thanks to a new augmented reality app commemorating the First World War.

Created by Loughborough Junction Action Group (LJAG) to give us a glimpse of wartime London, 'LJWWI' is an innovative project bringing together the latest smartphone technology, 23 unique paving slabs and some very talented local artists, writers and filmmakers. It's part of the Seven Bridges arts regeneration scheme, an ongoing initiative to transform the Loughborough Junction area.

For the uninitiated, augmented reality lets you hold your smartphone up to objects in the real world and see things that aren't there. In this case, by using the app in certain places around Loughborough Junction (marked by specially-designed paving slabs), you'll be able to access short films and see the street transformed into a scene from 1914, complete with army recruitment posters and vintage shop fronts.

There'll be three trails to follow, each with a story of its own. One story is pieced together with letters dropped by a local nurse. Along the way, you'll hear her reading them

out and meeting locals 100 years ago. "In every location you are where the story's happening," explains Walter, a member of LJAG and one of the project instigators.

Other themes include entertainment in the 1900s (Loughborough Junction was home to Fred Karno's Fun Factory, where Charlie Chaplin started out), the Christmas truce of 1914 (local London Irish Rifles regiment hold the football kicked from the German trenches a year later when the truce was not repeated) and advances in nursing and medicine at King's College Hospital.

Why did the team decide to create an app? "From the start of Seven Bridges I thought it would be cool if you could just hold up your phone and see artwork that wasn't there," says Walter. He sees augmented reality as a new way to involve people in their surroundings: "It's a little bit like magic...it's a completely new way of telling stories."

The stories are fictional, but incorporate true historical accounts from people in the area to give them a grounding in reality. They were written by Kate Horstead (who runs the Junction Writers group); travel novelist Simon Lewis; and a nurse

who used to work locally.

The app is a major group effort, and its creators came together serendipitously. "Wolfgang, the app developer, was the housemate of a friend whose studio we were using to create the initial artworks," says Walter "and we met Kate [Horstead] by chance at the Big Lunch two years ago."

Community is important and central to this project. "We decided that collective artists are much more interesting," Walter told me. "If you've got big themes, you give them to lots of different artists and get their different takes – it's a community of artists."

The app is launching as part of Lambeth Heritage Festival on September 6 with a party from 2pm at the Cambria Road bridge. There'll be talks from the Natural History Museum and the London Irish Rifles, as well as the chance to try out the app. Later in the day people can enjoy free tea and cakes and music from a DJ.

LJAG also hope that the app becomes a lasting resource, and intends to work with local schools to educate and enthuse a younger generation. Walter tells me there is scope to add more content and tweak it as time goes on. Time travel in Loughborough Junction may not be limited to just 1914!



Arts

Walk in the shoes of the Windrush generation



Picture by Antonio Sansica

Cultural researcher and London Blue Badge holder Kelly Foster will be leading this September's guided walk, *The Island of Brixton*, as part of the Lambeth Heritage Festival. Arts co-editor Ruth Waters met up with Kelly to find out more about the walk and the research behind it.

The untold stories of the Windrush generation are something which Kelly has been researching her whole life. "My grandmother, Kelesta Blackwood, came to Brixton from Jamaica with her son in 1955 to join her husband. She didn't come on the Windrush, but on the SS Auriga, and I've always been interested in the different experiences of that first generation of West Indians to settle here."

In an intriguing instance of the historical, cultural and personal

overlapping, the walk's title, *The Island of Brixton*, was inspired by Donald Hinds's essay of the same name. Donald also came to England on the Auriga, before working on the West Indian Gazette (which has been one of the most useful documents for Kelly's research) before becoming a published author and history teacher in Tulse Hill, for which he is widely and affectionately remembered within the local community.

As a Blue Badge guide, Kelly is no stranger to leading tours of London's famous heritage sites but, she explains, "it's a real privilege to transfer this skill I have to tell people about an aspect of our heritage which is so interesting and complex but which is often omitted from the history books."

Whether at the Lambeth Archives, Black Cultural Archives or British Library, Kelly has been trawling through documents, maps and minutes to uncover the life stories of the first African Caribbean members of the Brixton community - the struggles they faced as well as the successes they had - and has also carried out a lot of her research by talking to local people. "People still remember the people I've been researching... [for example] Oswald Denniston, also known as Columbus of Brixton, a trader on Brixton Market for decades, only died in 2000".

The stories Kelly has been uncovering are both about individuals - she tells me of one fascinating lady, Belzeta Helsey, who was an entrepreneur and hairdresser and whom she has been tracking during the 10 years in which she went from

having an unofficial business to it becoming a popular salon on Railton Road - and also larger associations and organisations within the African Caribbean community, from the Somerleyton - Geneva Advice Centre, Racial Brotherhood Association, to the West Indian Gazette. *The Island of Brixton* walk aims to give people a taste of the multiplicity of narratives, but will by no means cover them all.

Although the period which the walk focuses on is 1948 to 1962, Kelly's research doesn't just look back to the past - she also addresses the question of how Brixton is thought about today. "Brixton has come to be synonymous with black London, or black Britain, and we should have a closer look at why it's such a social, cultural and political hub for the black community today, which is more complex than the fact the Labour Exchange was on Coldharbour Lane."

What does Kelly hope that people will leave her walk with? "Hopefully they'll find out something new about familiar places, even if they've been a Brixton resident for years! But more than that, I want people to go away with a better understanding of how Brixton was for the Windrush generation and why it continues to be so important to the African Caribbean community today."

The Island of Brixton walking tour will take place on Saturday September 13 at 11am. If you'd like to attend please register online at eventbrite.co.uk. If you would like to find out more about Kelly Foster visit kellyfoster.co.uk



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The battle for Brixton's first bilingual school

BY ANDREA TALARICO

Brixton is undoubtedly a multicultural hub in London. Multilingual however? Not as much as a local mother would hope, as she campaigns to bring free bilingual primary education to Lambeth by September 2016.

Joelle Hernandez was born in Belgium and moved to London in 1997. She has been living in Brixton for the past nine years. She grew up in the French-speaking community of Brussels to Spanish-speaking parents. It is her daughter, Elisa Maelle, who inspired Hernandez to campaign for a bilingual school in Brixton.

"When I was looking for a school for my daughter, I thought "There must be a Spanish-speaking school in London". Though she found a school in Notting Hill supported by the Spanish government, Hernandez was looking for a school open to everyone. Last year, she began campaigning for the

creation of such a school, though her first application to the Department of Education was unsuccessful. "I felt I let down many enthusiastic parents in Lambeth. A few weeks ago I found out about the King's Group, who had been working with parents in other parts of London to establish bilingual schools. They were enthusiastic and keen to revive the project." King's Group was appointed as an Academy Sponsor in February 2014 by the Department of Education. In addition to a network of private schools, the Group is working on a project to launch and manage government-funded schools in the United Kingdom.

For Hernandez, the benefits of bilingualism are obvious. "There have been some large studies looking at the benefits of bilingualism. In Canada, it has been shown that children who are educated bilingually (in French and English) have better reading and

maths scores than their monolingual peer group. Sadly in this country, languages are not given sufficient priority in mainstream education. Unless you are educated privately, you rarely see children becoming fluent in a second language."

Time, however, is not on Hernandez's side. "The deadline is October, 10 so there is only about six weeks to gather all the expressions of interest. If we can get the necessary numbers of children for the years required, then King's Group will be able to submit an application to the DfE to open the school in September 2016."

Parents wanting to show their support for the bilingual school can visit: <http://kingsgroupacademies.org.uk/lambeth/>

For more information, search Bilingual Learning in Lambeth (BILL) on Facebook.





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Food

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Recipe: Chocolate ginger ice cream float

INGREDIENTS

Chocolate Ginger Ice Cream (makes 1 litre)

200g milk chocolate
600ml double cream
397g tin condensed milk
50g stem ginger in syrup,
finely chopped
50ml syrup from the ginger

Chocolate Ginger Mauby Float (makes 1)

50ml mauby syrup
(look for Sweet and Dandy brand in the Nour Cash & Carry)
200ml sparkling water
1 large scoop chocolate ginger ice cream

When I was a kid, the two biggest treats in town were fizzy drinks and ice cream. My family worked on the principle therefore that combining the two made them even better and turned them into an ice cream float. You slurp the frothy fizz through a straw and then spoon up the softened ice cream and enjoy a refreshing drink and snack in one.

I love them with traditional Coca Cola or root beer, so when I had some mauby drink recently, I just knew that it would make a fantastic float. Made from the bark of the mauby tree, it has a similar sweetness to the sarsaparilla in root beer, but finishes on a slightly bitter herbal note that makes it more thirst-quenching. I've teamed it with an easy no-churn chocolate ginger ice cream that works brilliantly with mauby's unique flavour.

CHOCOLATE GINGER ICE CREAM

This is very easy no-churn ice cream that can be adapted to any flavour you choose. Start by breaking the chocolate into a large bowl. Set it over a pan of boiling water, making sure the water isn't high enough to

touch the base of the bowl. Melt it gently, stirring well to break up the chocolate. Once melted, set aside to cool slightly.

Pour the cream into a large bowl and beat with an electric whisk until the cream is starting to take shape but not looking whipped. Add the condensed milk and beat for another minute until fully combined.

Add the chocolate, the syrup from the ginger and the finely chopped ginger and mix well. It will be a very pale brown in colour and airy in texture. Pour it into a plastic container and freeze for 4 hours. You don't need to stir it and it will set soft enough to scoop straight from the freezer.

CHOCOLATE GINGER MAUBY FLOAT

Pour the mauby syrup into a tall and preferably wide glass. Add the sparkling water, filling the glass about two thirds full. Gently place the scoop of ice cream into the glass and watch it all react and fizz up. Push a straw into the glass and serve with a long spoon on the side. Best on a sunny day, but the warmth of the ginger makes it just as delicious if the sun goes in again!



RECIPES
from
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MISS SOUTH
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www.kitchenpress.co.uk
KITCHEN PRESS

FOODIE NEWS

As we all know, Brixton is ever-changing but each month we bring you a round up of what's happening to keep you in the loop:

Atlantic Road is to get a new restaurant chain in the form of Mexican food joint Wahaca, now confirmed to be opening in October. Many locals aren't too happy at the thought of the chain landing on the site of the much-loved Brady's pub, especially after campaigns for the empty building to be put to community use.

A stalwart of the Brixton food scene on Acre Lane – Upstairs – has sadly closed its doors, although Philippe and family are keeping up their sandwich shop Opus. In other sandwich news, Salon Brixton in Market Row is now selling grilled cheese sandwiches at lunch in the downstairs Store Room. Choices include goat's curd and sobrasada, as well as daily specials – expect the likes of pickled aubergine and rosary goat's cheese or blue cheese and kimchi. Oof! All for the price of about £4.50. The meat special at Franco Manca pizzeria are also pretty special at the moment - we're loving the fennel salami and rocket combo.

Elsewhere in Market Row, Blacker Dread's record shop is about to be replaced by a jacket potato cafe called Blacker Jack, as long as some complications with the water supply don't get in the way...

Former Masterchef winner Tim Anderson cooked up a ramen storm in August for his 'pop-up' (sorry, we hate that phrase too) Nanban in Market House. It's got lots of love from the likes of Jay Rayner and our very own Miss South. Next up at Market House is Bhangra Burgers from September 11, with a 'Royal Raj Roast' on Sundays. Blimey...



Food

www.brixtonblog.com

Review: Zinging the praises at Yum-D

BY ZOE JEWELL

Unfortunately our food reviewer is away this month and I, not a seasoned food writer, am desperately fighting the temptation to simply describe everything at Thai café Yum-D as 'good'. 'Really good', in fact, because that's just what it was when I went with my cousin this summer, took my mum there in May, and introduced my brother, friends and colleagues to it last year.

If I want a zingy meal in the market, this is the place I'll go. It is absurdly cute inside, with just a few tiny tables, brightly coloured knick-knacks and a little prep station crowded with fresh herbs, spring onions and coconut milk tins.

There is rarely space to sit inside, but it's not hard to find a seat outside under the mini heaters. It's a perplexing part of the market's ecosystem that many of the best places remain emptier than they deserve, while others are consistently packed. Yum-D was one of those empty ones for a very long time, although as the market itself fills with ever more people they are increasingly busy these days.

All the classics – chicken satay, vegetable tempura, Thai green curry – appear on the menu, but all are done with a freshness and skill that delights and comforts every time. The Som Tom Salad is a glorious mix of green papaya, dry shrimp, hot chilli, peanuts and lime, thankfully not as mind-blowingly hot as Kaosarn's version.

The laksa noodle soup with mixed

veg and tofu comes in an almost sink-sized bowl – a glorious mix of creamy coconut, lime zing, rice noodles and lots of vegetables. The tofu, perhaps not as crisp as it could be, can be swapped in for chicken, beef or seafood as in most Thai restaurants. Another main, coconut pad thai noodles, is lifted from a standard noodle dish by the mild tamarind sauce used. It is absolutely delicious. The portions are generous so you will leave stuffed to the gills and deeply happy. This does – sadly for us – also mean we have never tried the desserts, which include Thai-style pancake with mango, banana spring roll and banana fritters.

Yum-D is BYO, so go to Market Row Wines or one of the newsagents on Coldharbour Lane for beers. An almost better option is the warming ginger tea.

Come here if you have a hangover, need to be soothed or just if you want a 'really good' dinner.



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What's On

www.brixtonblog.com

Summer may be sliding towards its end, but this September you can still get out and about in Brockwell Park before dancing the night away at various indoor venues. For your full guide to what's on in and around Brixton and Lambeth please go to www.brixtonblog.com

MON 1 @ PHOTOFUSION

Tim Hetherington was a photojournalist tragically killed by shrapnel while covering the 2011 Libyan civil war. A collection of his moving and revealing photos are now being exhibited at Photofusion until September 17. Hetherington focused on ordinary soldiers as well as the civilians caught up in the conflict, making masculinity and comradeship a particular theme of his work. Not to be missed.

TUES 2 @ WINDMILL BRIXTON

If you're a fan of punk and indie, get to the Windmill for 'Chamber', a monthly club night for alternative music. Tonight French-Mexican female-fronted band 'Majorettes' are headlining. Doors at 8pm and it costs £3.

WEDS 3 @ BRIXTON LIBRARY

Ceridwen Buckmaster and *The Brixton Bugle's* Miss South will be in conversation about women's writing on food, international cuisine and

community at 7pm at the library tonight. You can buy Miss South's new book 'Recipes from Brixton Village' on the *Brixton Blog*.

THURS 4 @ WHIRLED CINEMA

Tom Hiddlestone and Tilda Swinton star in Jim Jarmusch's 'Only Lovers Left Alive', a vampire love film. It's showing at 8.30pm at the wonderful Whirled Cinema, 259 Hardess Street.

FRI 5 @ BCA

Forget M&S sandwiches at the desk, the Black Cultural Archives are running a series of lunchtime talks from inspirational women making a difference to society today. Listen to one of their stories for just £5 for 45 minutes today at 1pm. Talks in the series include 'Women in Performance' and 'Survivors: Women and War'.

SAT 6 @ JAMM CLUB

A party for 'mature ravers' apparently - Adam Cotier, Booker T, Carlos Florez and Richie Fingers will be playing soulful house and jungle at Jamm tonight. Doors at 11pm and it's £10 to get in.

SUN 7 @ BROCKWELL PARK

Eight-piece soul band Soul Intent will be playing classic Stax, Motown and funk with a bit of disco thrown into the mix at the performance

Editor's Pick: Club night @ Hootananny Monday 1

Tonight Hootananny is hosting a club night organized by Certitude, who support unpaid carers, for people with learning disabilities and mental health problems. The night is now open to the general public too, with special performances by DJ Supa C, The Brixton Harmonies and Matthew Irving.



space in Brockwell Park. If, like us, you've never heard of that before, it's the bit in front of Brockwell Hall and they will be playing from 2.30-5pm.

MON 8 @ BRIXTON BLOG RUNNING CLUB

Brixton Blog Running Club, having taken a summer break for two weeks, will be back with a bang tonight. Meet us at 7pm at Windrush Square (outside the library) for a 5k run around Brockwell Park. If you're feeling brave, you can even accompany the faster runners on a 10k that takes in Ruskin Park too. But don't worry if not - we welcome all abilities!

TUES 9 @ BRIXTON LIBRARY

If you have a child under five

years old, then make sure to take them to 'Once Upon A Rhyme', an interactive storytelling session at the Brixton Library. There will be crafts, lots of fun and refreshments at some of the sessions too. Free entry from 10.30-11.15am.

WEDS 10 @ BRIXTON REC

Get fit by boxing with the Afewee club every Wednesday at Brixton Recreation Centre from 7-9pm. There's also a session for 10-17 year olds on Sundays at 10am-12pm. Steadman Scott, who runs the sessions, has just been nominated for the Lambeth Community Awards for promoting equality and inclusion.

THURS 11 @ KAFF BAR

Tonight (and every Thursday) is the Thursday Threeway at Kaff Bar on Atlantic Road. That means £3 for a pint, £3 for house spirits and mixer, and £3 cocktails. Our favourite is the Brixton Mule, with rum and Ossia's Ginger Beer. Also make

sure to taste some of Chef Richard Myers' cajun delights.

FRI 12 @ HOOTANANNY BRIXTON

Tonight is the Friday Celebration of Laughs at Hootananny Brixton. It's exactly what it says on the tin - a night focused on making you laugh. Ian Stone, regular on Mock The Week, is performing alongside Jen Brister. From 8.45-10pm.

SAT 13 @ BROCKWELL PARK PONDS

Bat expert Dr Iain Boulton is leading a bat walk tonight at 7.25pm. It sounds incredibly exciting - he is bringing bat detectors with him and will give lots of interesting facts about the Brockwell bats. Wear sensible shoes and dress for the weather. Booking essential so email thoare@lambeth.gov.uk to get your free place.

Lambeth Heritage Festival September 2014

A month-long festival led by Lambeth Archives & Lambeth Local History Forum

Setting the table

New writing by women about food, international cuisine and community.



Join Ceridwen Buckmaster and Miss South, two authors who are passionate about food! Since 2008, Ceridwen has led walks in Brixton's green spaces to learn about edible wild plants and is passionate about bringing communities together through food. Miss South has talked with Brixton Village traders to glean new recipes and establish the place of the market in Brixton's burgeoning reputation as a centre for international cuisine

Wednesday 3rd September 7pm-8.30

Brixton Library, Brixton Oval, SW2 1JQ

Admission free

For all festival events please go to:
www.lambeth.gov.uk/heritagefestival

Lambeth

Editor's Pick: Local Enterprise UPRISE event @ Impact Hub, September 10

Transition Town Brixton hosts an occasion for the amazing projects and enterprises that are pioneering the way towards a resilient new local economy in Brixton and Lambeth, to update, share and plan to be 'more than the sum of their parts' and successful and visible pioneers of the change we want to see in the world. Think Brixton Pound, Remakery Brixton, Brixton Energy, Brixton Community Draught Busters, Makerhood. There are great training and business mentoring projects too: Tree Shepherd, Create Lambeth, One Planet Ventures. Weds, September 10, 6-9pm. Book free tickets via www.transitiontownbrixton.org



What's On

www.brixtonblog.com

SUN 14 @ BROCKWELL CAR PARK

Erm, yes, we're aware we are currently stuck in a park riff, but it's basically the end of the summer and we're still trying to eke it out. Anyway, today is the monthly car boot sale in the car park. It raises money for the Friends of Brockwell Park and you can find some gems there or pay a tenner to sell your stuff out the back of your car.

SUN 14 @ POPE'S ROAD

Don't miss the Brixton Bolt races at Pope's Rd from midday either. Enter by emailing brixtonbolt@gmail.com.

MON 15 @ OLIVE MORRIS HOUSE

Need help surfing the internet? The council is running sessions across the borough to help people get to grips with new digital worlds. This one is at Olive Morris House from 10am-3pm and is free.

TUES 16 @ MINET LIBRARY

The lovely Minet Library runs a book club every month. Meet fellow keen readers and debate the ins and outs of each tome to your heart's content. Minet Library provides each member with a copy of one of the books from the list every month. It's free and runs from 6.30-8.30pm.

WEDS 17 @ 6 SOMERLEYTON

This temporary space on Somerleyton Road is part of the upcoming redevelopment of the area and currently hosts art projects, BlockWorkout and yoga. Tonight there is a yoga session from 7-8.30pm - perfect for a stretch after work.

THURS 18 @ BROCKWELL LIDO

Watch 'The Goonies' at the pop-up cinema at the Lido. Blankets and inflatable backrests are on hand. Two lucky people will be sitting in an inflatable dinghy in the pool itself. Selling out fast so book tickets at www.thelunacinema.com now. Doors open at 6.45pm and performance starts at 7.45pm

FRI 19 @ PLAN B BRIXTON

The 'innerSoul' night returns to Plan B with an international line-up of DJs, including Lenxman, Makoto and Random Movement. It's from 10pm-5am and costs £10-£15.

SAT 20 @ WALKING TOUR WITH THE BCA

Take a walking tour through the streets of Brixton to learn about our local black heritage with the Black Cultural Archives. From 2-3.30pm, £8 or £6 for concessions. Book online at bcaheritage.org.uk.

SUN 21 @ POW

An absolutely brilliant line-up at the Soundclash night at the POW tonight. Jimpster, Ms Marcia Carr, and maybe even Alexander Nut from Eglo Records are all on the bill. Entry is £8-£12.

MON 22 @ BRIXTON LIBRARY

If English isn't your first language and you need some practice, then pop to Brixton Library for the free conversation class today at 7pm.

TUES 23 @ NEGRIL

It's been a while since we made it up the Hill to Negril and we miss it, so we're recommending it to y'all too. If there's still some lingering summer's warmth, then sit outside in the cheery front garden. If not, enjoy your jerk chicken or ital curries inside and warm yourselves up with the festival dumplings. Service isn't quick so make sure you've got time to while away the hours.

WED 24 @ BRIXTON REC

Get down to some hard-core sporty work tonight at the 20.20.20 class at the Rec from 8pm. The class combines aerobics, conditioning and core for what they call 'a perfect combination class'.

THURS 25 @ TRINITY ARMS

Get to the lovely Trinity Arms for their weekly pub quiz, starting at

8.45pm tonight. Arrive early for a table and make sure you're feeling sharp.

FRI 26 @ ELECTRIC BRIXTON

Much-loved band The Fall are now into their fourth decade and still going strong, even if Mark E. Smith is the only constant member of the band. They'll be playing new songs as well as the classics tonight.

SAT 27 @ PLAN B BRIXTON

The Samurai music night is back in Brixton after it launched in June at Plan B. Tonight they will be launching two new LPs - the Clarity debut 'Infinite' and Ena's 'Binaural' LP. 10pm-5am, £8-£12.

SUN 28 @ YOGA POINT

This yoga studio at 122 Dalberg Road hosts a lovely session every Sunday from 8.30-10am. Okay, it's early for a Sunday, but if you manage to wake up in time then it is absolutely worth your while and Harry, the teacher, is brilliant.

MON 29 @ EFFRA HALL TAVERN

Fancy a night out on a Monday? Head to the lovely Effra Tavern for a bit of jerk chicken and an ever welcoming atmosphere.

TUES 30 @ GOODGYM

Get fit and do good for the

What's On is edited by Phoebe Robertson.
If you'd like to join the What's On team, either to review, preview or interview, please contact:

**Phoebe@
 brixtonblog.com**

community too by meeting the Good Gym guys tonight at 6.45pm outside City Pantry in Market Row. Their runs could take you to Loughborough Farm to dig up weeds, to Myatts Fields to help with moving logs of wood or even to the Foodbank to carry deliveries.

Editor's Pick: Lauryn Hill @ Brixton Academy Sunday September 21



At the time of going to press, there were still tickets available for Ms Lauryn Hill's Sunday performance in Brixton. She's a legend and so, if you agree, book a ticket as soon as you can. This is only the second time in five years she has performed in the UK. Doors open at 7pm.



GREEN FINGERS: It's harvest time

**ALISON
ALEXANDER**
Brockwell
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Greenhouses



Our most and least favourite crops this year: Tomatoes

'Gardener's Delight' cherry tomatoes are exquisitely sweet and the plants looked healthy when all others were showing signs of stress.

'Yellow Perfection' is well named: a good balance of sweet and savoury and a reliable cropper inside and out.

'Costolutto Fiorentino' is a beefsteak tomato, superb cooked. It was more productive under glass but does well in a sheltered garden.

'Garden Pearl' has been a shabby mess of a bush but has produced heaps of incredibly delicious salmon-pink cherry tomatoes over a long period – very good for container-growing.

'Black Russian' has been juicy, a novelty on the plate but not overwhelmingly rich in flavour.

Chillies

Given that home gardeners are most likely to be growing chillies on a window ledge, plants have to be attractive as well as having tasty fruit. The following are all pretty, compact plants.

'Firecracker' and 'Numex Twilight' have multicoloured chillies held erect. Both are like a heat explosion on the tongue.

'Long Red Slim' are elegant dangling cayenne peppers which deliver a quick snap of sweetness then bam! Heat spreads throughout the mouth.

'Lemon drop' is one of my favourites. It is strong but does indeed taste of lemons.

Aubergines

We're growing all of our aubergines outside which may explain why the Bangladeshi 'White Egg' is not cropping prolifically. It's a terrific talking-point though: the fruits really do look like they've just been laid on the bush.

'Bonica' is a classic purple aubergine in looks as well as taste and has been extremely productive.



As the mornings turn chilly and the nights draw in, there's more than the beautiful slanting light of autumn to keep gardeners cheery: it's harvest time.

The pleasure of eating something straight from the bush that you've nurtured from a mere speck of a seed only a few months earlier is immense.

At the Greenhouses we need to sell produce to fund our activities but sharing growing tips with other gardeners is one of our reasons for being.

So for our volunteers, tasting isn't just a treat but a vital part of our education work - how could we possibly recommend varieties of crops if we didn't taste them ourselves?

Bearing in mind that we only garden three days a week, plants that perform well are usually able to withstand some neglect.

So if they work for us, they're likely to work for you when life gets in the way of regular watering and feeding.

In late summer/autumn, we're harvesting crops from warm climates - aubergines, chillies, squashes, beans and more tomatoes.

These need a long growing season to make the most of as much sun and warmth our cool northerly summer can muster.

Beans

Yet again, 'Cosse Violette' has been amazing. These shiny deep-purple French beans are produced in vast quantities, look stunning and are melt-in-the-mouth delicious.

The yellow French bean 'Neckargold' has been a disappointment - 'Kentucky Wonder Wax' was infinitely tastier last year.

Runner beans 'Lady Di' and 'Enorma' have performed well again, both heavy-cropping, succulent and stringless.

Our dwarf French beans 'Annabel', 'Safari' and 'The Prince' haven't done well but were possibly planted too late so perhaps that was our fault. Has anybody had success with these locally?

For something a little more unusual, I

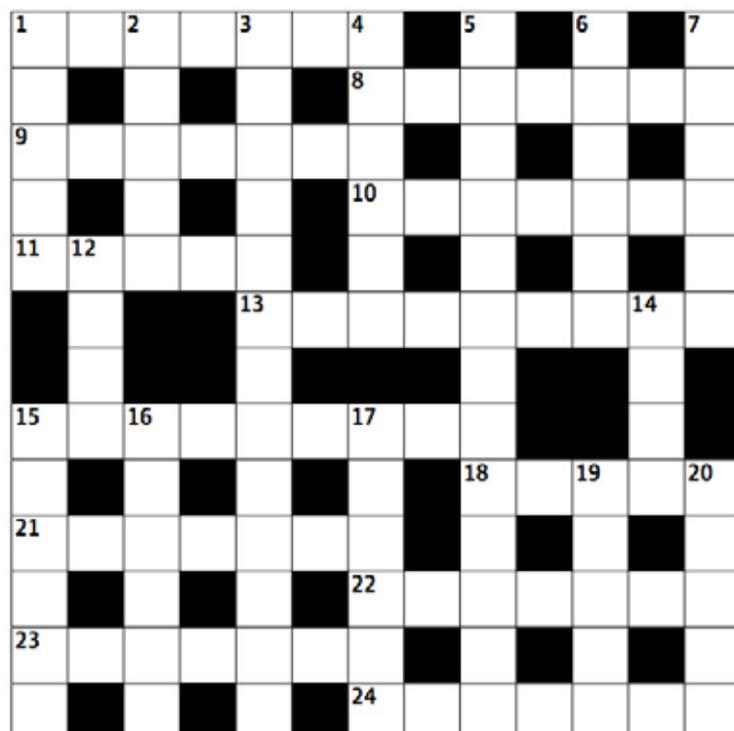
recommend a visit to the Greenhouses before the cold weather sets in.

We've been having fun experimenting with tamarind, peanut, the Japanese herb perilla, Mexican tomatillo, cape gooseberry, asparagus pea, yard long bean, sesame, the fragrant lemon basil, intensely strong Greek basil and, my current favourite, cucamelon or mouse melon.

Cucamelons (pictured above) are the size of a queen olive, have skin mottled like a watermelon and taste like a cucumber - you just pop the whole fruit in.

For more tips on vegetable and ornamental varieties, keep an eye on the Greenhouse blog - we'll update as we continue tasting.

www.brockwellgreenhouses.org



QUICK CROSSWORD

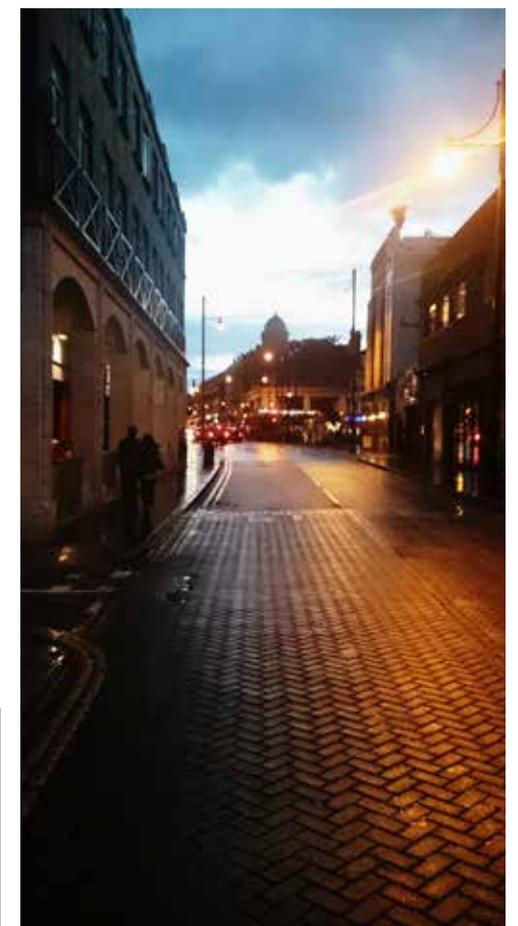
Across

1. Prisoner (7)
8. Pale rasin (7)
9. In the thick of (7)
10. Pilot (7)
11. Toothed whale with massive head (5)
13. Full of beans (9)
15. Where to get a seaweed wrap (6,3)
18. Spill (5)
21. Performance (7)
22. From Tel Aviv (7)
23. Mobile home (7)
24. Makes certain (7)

Down

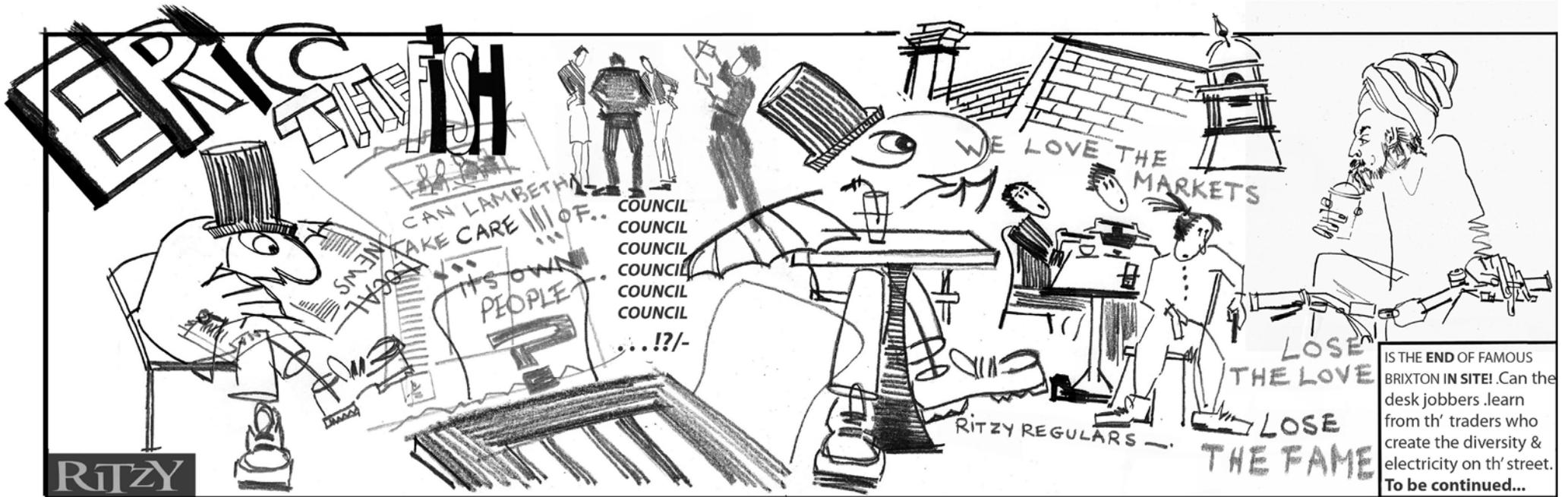
1. One side of a coin (5)
2. Result (5)
3. Litigious (13)
4. Grounds (6)
5. UFOs (6,7)
6. Comic book gunfire (3-3)
7. Material (6)
12. Chaste (4)
14. Lazy (4)
15. Roman poet; a chore (anag) (6)
16. Agreement (6)
17. Salt solution (6)
19. Javelin (5)
20. Other side of a coin (5)

Coldharbour Lane turns orange:
Thanks to David Fuller, who sent us this great picture.



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St Matthews Project alive and kicking 10 years on



Far left: Light Up The House's capoeira performance in Brockwell Park to mark the tenth anniversary of the St Matthew's Project. Left: The Project brings kids together each week. Picture by Alistair Hall

BY LAURA DICKINSON

The St Matthew's Project was only ever supposed to be a six week kick-about in the summer holidays. 10 years on, it's become one of Lambeth's most enduring community sports groups, making a real impact on kids throughout Brixton.

"Once you get involved in something like this, it's very difficult to walk away," says founder Lee Dema. "There were times in the early days when I thought I couldn't do it. But once you go through those doors, there's no turning your back on all those kids who depend on you."

St Matthew's now has more than 300 local boys and girls on their roll, with over 150 playing and training week in, week out. The club provides free football training in Brockwell Park and Ferndale Sports Centre for young people from St Matthew's, Tulse Hill and other estates throughout Brixton.

"It belongs to all the young people of Brixton, of Lambeth," explains Lee. "We're even getting some young guys from north Brixton, which is

encouraging because south Brixton was previously 'no go territory' for them. It's good that they feel safe enough to come here."

The St Matthew's Project provides courses and training for some of the older players too. Now established with a classroom in the bowls pavilion in Brockwell Park, players can gain NVQs and other training courses. Last year marked the first time that a FA Training Level Two was offered.

The young players are quick to tell what they like about being a St Matthew's Project player. "They coach you really good. It makes you better," explains Rhys, aged 10. "They introduce loads of new skills."

"Some teams you have to spend money to train with them, but here it's free," says 14-year-old Andre. "I tell my mates about it and they come and they like it."

"It makes you better as a person, like self-discipline," he adds. "It teaches you health stuff and coaching. That's what I'm going to do when I'm

16. I want to be a coach."

This year, the St Matthew's Project celebrates its tenth anniversary and has planned a series of celebrations to raise awareness among Brixton locals about the club and what it does.

"We just really want people to know that we're here," says Lee. "I think a lot of people probably just walk past us in the park, every Saturday, see our kids playing in black and blue stripes, but don't know who we are."

"We work with some of the most disadvantaged kids in Lambeth, in the country," he continues. "All our activities are free and we've been doing this for 10 years. Come and see what we do and support us."

The celebrations kicked off with a special performance by Light Up The House in Brockwell Park which, to mark World Cup year, told the story of the history of Brazilian football through capoeira. In an unusual yet captivating performance, the dancers highlighted issues of race and class in Brazil, as well as the beauty of the

Brazilian game.

The performance was supported by Brockwell Park Community Partners, which is keen to show the diversity of activities and groups who use the park. "We want to showcase what's good about the park, to get people into the park and using it," says Matt Allgood, treasurer.

"You have to think about what would be happening if the St Matthew's Project wasn't there and what those kids would be doing if they weren't in football," adds Matt. "They've done a terrific job by bringing kids from different areas together."

It hasn't been short of challenges in its 10-year history. Only recently have they managed to gain use of the Ferndale Sports Centre for free after a nine-year battle.

They'd also like more support from Lambeth council. They've been granted use of the bowls pavilion in Brockwell Park but ideally they'd like a lease. "The council have been helpful but we need a lease because

we need a solid base to continue and to grow."

Funding too is a continual challenge. "It's difficult when you're in a borough that's got no money and all your activities are free. How do you generate income? It's a big problem for a lot of groups like us."

I ask Lee what he'd have said 10 years ago if he knew St Matthew's would become what it has become: "I guess it's become my destiny or something. People are saying 'Ah yeah St Matthew's, I've heard of that'. It's not St Matthew's Church, it's the St Matthew's Project." In another 10 years time it's hard to imagine Brixton sport without St Matthew's at its heart.

Support the club by searching for the St Matthew's Project on www.LocalGiving.com and making a donation. The project is also looking for exhibition space in Brixton to display 10 years of its best photos. Send suggestions via the St Matthew's Project Facebook page.

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