

# THE BRIXTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Winter, December 2012

No.208, Quarterly issue,  
Distributed free to members.

Registered with the London Forum of Amenity  
Societies, Registered Charity No.1058103,  
Website: [www.brixtonsociety.org.uk](http://www.brixtonsociety.org.uk)

Our next event:

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January:

## Winter Social

7 pm at the Vida Walsh Centre,  
2b Saltoun Road, SW2

Admission free to members, but to help  
our planning, please confirm if you are  
coming (and the sooner the better). Notify  
Bill Linskey on (020) 7274 3835 or by e-  
mail to [wjdc1@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:wjdc1@globalnet.co.uk)

## More dates inside...

We are trying to distribute this issue to  
members before Christmas, to give you ample  
notice of the Winter Social. However, we  
expect more 2013 dates to be firmed-up over  
the next month, so check our website then too.  
Meanwhile, seasonal greetings to you all...

## Brixton Green Milestone

Community project Brixton Green achieved a  
major milestone at the end of September by  
signing up its 1,000<sup>th</sup> shareholder. This means  
a lot of people who live or work in Brixton are  
now shareholders, putting the organisation in a  
stronger position to realise its community  
aspirations – see also [www.brixtongreen.org](http://www.brixtongreen.org)



*The Friends of Windmill Gardens have placed this illuminated model windmill in Windrush Square for the Christmas season, to highlight their latest appeal for funding to get the windmill machinery grinding flour again. The illumination was generously sponsored by Veolia and Emerson. Enquiries to [info@brixtonwindmill.org.uk](mailto:info@brixtonwindmill.org.uk)*

## Brixton's BID takes shape New Business Improvement District

Last month Lambeth Council gave the go-ahead for phase 2 of this project, which will involve consulting local businesses. Most will have to contribute towards a fund to improve conditions for local business. That could be collective promotional activity, more security measures, improving the shopping streets or other ideas. Consultation should be completed in March, followed by a ballot in July. If 60% of participants are in favour, the Brixton BID would take effect from September, steered by a board drawn from local businesses. Its area could be larger than the Town Centre area defined by Lambeth Planners, depending on the response from local businesses.

## Dates for Early 2013

### Society Meetings

The Executive Committee usually meets on the second Thursday of the month to plan activities and agree our responses to current issues. These meetings are at 7 pm at the Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Road, SW2 (at the Effra Road end, facing Windrush Square).

- **14 February,**
- **14 March,**
- **11 April,**
- **9 May,**
- **13 June (AGM)**
- 11 July,
- 12 September,
- 10 October
- 14 November

### Guest

#### Appearances

We welcome opportunities to tell people about what we do, sign up new members and sell our local history publications. It's good to be involved in local events around Brixton, even if we sometimes have to miss out due to clashes of dates or key helpers being absent. So far we are likely to be involved with:

**Windmill Festival**, 6 May?

**London Open Garden Squares weekend** (see p.8)

**Lambeth Country Show**,  
Weekend 20 & 21 July?

**London Open House**  
weekend 21 & 22 Sept.

**Lambeth Archives Open Day**, Saturday 28 Sept.?

### Links with Other Groups

*Dates are still coming in for 2013, but please check directly with the organisers if any queries over times or admission.*

#### Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January - Recent Discoveries in Local History:

A round-up of research by various speakers, 8 pm at Woodlawns, Streatham Darby & Joan Club, 16 Leigham Court Rd., SW16  
*The Streatham Society*

#### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Archaeology from the Thames Link Project:

Speaker from Pre-Construct Archaeology: opens at 7 pm for 7-30 start, Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1 (almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre).  
*Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society*

#### Wednesday 16 January: How to make a million jobs – a charter for Social Enterprise:

A talk by Colin Crooks, based on his recent book of the same title\*, 6-30 pm at Brixton Tate Library, SW2. Enquiries to Tim O'Dell at [to'dell@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:to'dell@lambeth.gov.uk)  
\*ISBN 978 09573530 08  
*Lambeth Libraries*

#### Wednesday 13 Feb. – Interwar Architecture:

Edmund Bird, Heritage adviser to the Mayor and GLA, appraises architecture in Lambeth from 1918-1939. 7-30 for 8 pm start, at

Clapham Manor Primary School, entrance in Belmont Road, SW4 0BZ.  
*Clapham Society*

#### Wednesday 13 Feb. – Herne Hill and Dulwich on old postcards:

A selection shown by Ian McInnes, 7-30 pm for 7-45 start, Herne Hill United Church Hall, c/o Redpost Hill and Herne Hill, SE24.  
*Herne Hill Society*

#### 16 & 17 February – The Listed Property Show:

At Olympia, details and tickets from [www.lpoc.co.uk](http://www.lpoc.co.uk)

#### Sunday 17 February – Recent Archaeology in Southwark:

Recent discoveries presented by Dr Christopher Constable of Southwark Council, 3 pm at the Goose Green Centre, St. John's Church, East Dulwich.  
*The Peckham Society*

#### Editorial Notice:

Space permitting, we try to feature local events and publish reminiscences or enquiries in our newsletter. We welcome news and comments from all who are interested in the Brixton area, so opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the Brixton Society.

All material should be sent to the Secretary, Alan Piper, at 82 Mayall Road, SE24 0PJ, or by e-mail to [APiperBrix@aol.com](mailto:APiperBrix@aol.com)  
Phone/ fax (020) 7207 0347

## Planning & Regeneration Round-up

### Town Centre Plan Progress

The final Draft of the Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) should go to the Council's Cabinet this month and then be published for public comments or objections during January. There are lots of worthy statements in the SPD but we already have a few concerns:

**Clarity:** the main role of the SPD is to decide planning applications, large and small, so wording needs to be more precise, to prevent abuses but encourage good ideas.

**The Recreation Centre:** users are concerned at the ambiguity of the present wording, which might allow replacement with a reduced range of facilities, rather like the cheap ice rink next door.

**Tall Buildings:** A developer asked to replace the Rec would need to build very tall "luxury" flats, as at Vauxhall, in order to offset the cost. There is already local controversy over plans for a 16-storey tower which would overshadow Slade Gardens. There are some policies in the Mayor's London Plan and in Lambeth's own core strategy which we can use to resist over-ambitious tower block proposals in future, but it would be better to tie these in with the SPD also.

### "Town Hall plus" SW2 Enterprise Centre

It's not just 50-storey towers that may be revived from the 1971 Town Centre Plan – a "groundscraper" super Town Hall is now being pursued, to bring Council staff back to the centre of the borough. It looks likely that the original town hall building will be the public core, with new offices fronting Brixton Hill and Acre Lane. The package includes selling International House (behind the Rec) for conversion to private flats.

There is talk of offering space in the new complex to community organisations and small businesses, but an obvious obstacle is the cost of their renting any newly built office space. See [www.enterprise-sw2.com](http://www.enterprise-sw2.com)

### Relaxing the planning rules

Government ministers have been talking for some time about relaxing the rules so that building extensions and changes will not need planning permission. This may mean more owners will be able to do their own thing, regardless of SPDs or other local plans.

A draft appeared last month, and comments must be made by Christmas Eve. Refer to website: [www.gov.uk/government/consultations](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations)

### Loughborough Junction Plans

Lambeth has appointed DSDHA Architects to prepare a Masterplan for the area between Brixton Town Centre and Camberwell.

Local improvements are being championed by the Loughborough Junction Action Group – see [www.loughboroughjunction.co.uk](http://www.loughboroughjunction.co.uk)

### Are we a Great Neighbourhood?

The Academy of Urbanism seems to think so, because last month it presented its Great Neighbourhood Award to Brixton – except that nobody from Brixton received it. Instead it was collected by Sue Foster, Lambeth's Director of housing, regeneration and environment. Strange, because it's difficult to find anything Council officers have contributed in recent years – except perhaps removing our car park, thwarting community plans for the Railway Hotel, dragging their feet over Brixton Green's ideas for Somerleyton Road and running down Town Centre management. But they did fill in the application form!

[www.brixtonblog.com/brixton-named-countrys-greatest-neighbourhood-by-urbanism-awards/8274](http://www.brixtonblog.com/brixton-named-countrys-greatest-neighbourhood-by-urbanism-awards/8274)