

# THE BRIXTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer, July 2010

No.198, 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)

## A late reminder:

Some of you may receive this in time for a  
final reminder about two events on...

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July

#### Windmill Festival:

2 pm to 5 pm in Windmill Gardens,  
between Ramillies Close and Blenheim  
Gardens, Brixton Hill SW2

*Organised by Friends of Windmill Gardens*

and our Walk the same day...

#### Rediscovering Rush Common

Meet 2-30 pm outside Tate Library,  
Windrush Square, SW2, for a walk led by  
Alan Piper, finishing at Brixton Windmill.  
Pick up the full list of guided walks in and  
around Lambeth from our stall – or see inside  
for highlights.

### Lambeth Country Show Saturday & Sunday 17/18 July, Brockwell Park

Open daily 11 am to 7 pm. Look for our  
stall in the charities block to the right of the  
path from the Herne Hill gate up towards  
Brockwell Hall (a corner site, Z31).



*The north end of Brixton Road c.1930*

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August:

#### North Brixton guided walk

Meet 2-30 pm inside the main gates of  
St.Mark's Church, opposite the Oval  
underground station, for a circular walk led  
by Alan Piper.

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September:

#### Lambeth Archives Open Day

At Minet Library, Knatchbull Road, SE5  
This year's theme is Hidden Lambeth,  
including forgotten scientific discoveries. If you  
can spare some time to help on our stall at this  
event, please call Bill Linskey on (020) 7274  
3835 or by e-mail to [wjdcl@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:wjdcl@globalnet.co.uk)

### Ice Rink for Brixton?

Lambeth Council is trying to solve two  
problems which have been festering for years  
– its neglect of Brixton's multi-storey car park  
and a complex development involving the  
replacement of Streatham's ice rink. The latter  
requires a temporary ice rink while Tesco build  
a supermarket on the site of the old one. The  
plan was to put this on Streatham Common,  
which however is protected by a couple of Acts  
of Parliament and thousands of angry  
residents. One idea being considered in the  
Town Hall is to solve both problems at once by  
putting the temporary rink on the site of the  
crumbling car park. This could be an extra  
attraction for Brixton BUT traders have already  
pointed out that with the car park closed since  
December, there is a desperate shortage of  
parking which is discouraging shoppers and  
other visitors. What's your view?

## Diary of Events, Late Summer 2010

### 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).

- **9 September,**
- **14 October**
- **11 November**

### Friends of Tate Library

#### Thursday 22 July

6-45 to 7-45 pm in the Tate Library, Brixton Oval SW2

### Friends of Windrush Square

#### Thursday 19 August

7 pm at the Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Road. Meeting to review our experience of events in the Square, and how the new layout is working so far.

### Links with Other Groups

*Please check directly with the organisers if any queries over times or admission.*

#### Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 July – Urban Art Fair

Brixton's annual open air contemporary art fair will run from 10 am to 6 pm daily along Josephine Avenue, SW2. For details see: [www.urbanart.co.uk](http://www.urbanart.co.uk)

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August – Herne Hill walk:

Historic highlights, walk led by Robert Holden. Meet at

2-30 pm outside Herne Hill station, Railton Road, SE24.  
*Herne Hill Society*

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August – Brixton Splash

Popular music festival in Brixton Town Centre, 12 noon to 7 pm, more news at [www.brixtonsplash.co.uk](http://www.brixtonsplash.co.uk) or contact Ros Griffiths on (020) 7733 8878

#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August – Car Boot Sale:

9 am to 1 pm in the car park next to Brockwell Lido.  
*Friends of Brockwell Park*

#### Wednesday 18 August – Historic Clapham:

Evening walk led by David Perkin. Meet at 6-30 pm at Clapham Common underground station to explore the historic core of Clapham. Walk finishes at Holy Trinity Church at about 8 pm.  
*The Clapham Society*

#### Thursday 19 August – the River Effra

New light on an old river, by Dr Martin Heath.  
8 pm at the Phoenix Centre, Westow Street, SE19.  
*Norwood Society*

#### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Urban Green Fair:

In Brockwell Park (more details awaited).

#### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. – Entertainment in South London:

Tony Fletcher surveys people, places and shows which have delighted locals over the years. 7-30 pm for 7-45 start, at Herne Hill

United Church Hall, corner of Redpost Hill and Herne Hill, SE24.  
*Herne Hill Society.*

#### Sunday 12 September – Old Deptford:

A circular walk, led by Alan Piper. Meet at 2-30 pm on Deptford Bridge (below Deptford Bridge DLR station) opposite Lewisham College building.  
*Lambethans' Society*

#### Tuesday 14 September – Vauxhall Society AGM

7 pm for 7-30 start, at St. Peter's Church, 310 Kennington Lane, SE11.  
*Vauxhall Civic Society*

#### Wednesday 15 Sept. – The Survey of London:

Talk by Professor Andrew Saint, general editor of the series of parish histories, with special reference to the impending volume on Battersea.

7-30 pm for 8 pm start at Clapham Manor School – enter from Belmont Road, SW4.  
*The Clapham Society*

#### Weekend 18 & 19 Sept. – Open House London

For sites and events, see [www.open-city.org.uk](http://www.open-city.org.uk)  
Guide books should be available from local libraries at the end of August, or contact our Secretary.

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Brockwell Big Draw:

Community chalk-in on the park paths (more details in our next issue?)  
*Friends of Brockwell Park*

# The Brixton Society

Understanding the Past, Looking to the Future

## Annual Report 2010

### AIMS & ORGANISATION

**STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT:** The Society is a registered charity and an unincorporated association. A revised constitution was adopted at the 2008 AGM, based on a Civic Trust model reflecting current charity law.

The Executive Committee has met 9 times since the 2009 AGM, consisting of Bill Linskey (Chair), Annick Alet, Doye Akinlade, Ray Bailey, John Cunningham, Barbara Davies, Phil Isaac, Rosemary Honey, Diana Linskey, Alan Piper, Marilyn Rogers, Eileen Walkin, Norma Williamson, David Warner and Nicholas Weedon.

**AIMS & AFFILIATIONS:** We aim to encourage awareness and understanding of our surroundings, and to give local people a say in Brixton's future. Our area extends well beyond the Town Centre to include Myatt's Fields, much of Stockwell, and out to the South Circular Road.

The Civic Trust, the national umbrella body for amenity societies, went into administration in April 2009. We have followed with interest the emergence of Civic Voice to fill the gap as a national body, but the executive committee considered that joining would require too large an increase in individual members' subscriptions.

Even so, the Society remained registered with the London Forum of Amenity Societies, the British Association for Local History and Lambeth Voluntary Action Council, all of which provide useful support in our work.



*Running a bookstall in Brixton Tate Library in December 2009, for the unveiling of the Lambeth History ceramic plaque (A.Alet, PC050214)*

Locally, we have also participated in the Brixton Stakeholders' Forum, Brockwell Park Management Advisory Committee, Lambeth Police/ Community Consultative Group, Lambeth Local History Forum, Friends of Lambeth Libraries and Lambeth Parks Forum. We are trying to restore regular contacts with other amenity societies within Lambeth in order to improve liaison over other issues such as planning and conservation policies.

### PROGRAMME & ACTIVITIES

**EVENTS:** Despite renewing our display kit, 2009 offered slightly less opportunities than usual to take part in local events, though we appeared at Larkhall Park community fair for the first time. Once again we provided guided walks as part of the summer series organised by Lambeth Local History Forum. We have only held occasional open meetings in recent years, but our usual winter social went off well.



*Our display at Larkhall Park, September 2009 (A. Alet, P9260049)*

**NETWORKING:** In addition to the organisations noted above, we are in touch with a wide range of community groups. It has long been an important part of our work to encourage and support the efforts of groups trying to enhance their neighbourhood or improve a local amenity. As a result, we are represented on the boards or committees of several local projects.

The recent 2010 AGM amended the constitution so that the Friends of Tate Library and the Friends of Windrush Square will now function as two separate standing committees of the Society.

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## Annual Report 2010

We also try to respond to a varied stream of e-mail enquiries from students, media and family historians.

### PLANNING & REGENERATION:

We have been working closely with the Friends of Brixton Market, other groups and local councillors to breathe new life into the Market area. It was a great boost to morale when all three covered arcades were officially listed this Spring. Lambeth has also been persuaded to finally adopt its own local listing scheme, which we are preparing to contribute to.

We have tended to focus on planning policy documents rather than the bulk of individual planning applications. We can expect further changes to the planning system in the year ahead, reflecting the recent change of government.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Additional titles are in early stages of preparation, but for the present our priorities are to develop the website and ensure regular publication of our quarterly newsletter. *A breakdown of the main titles sold is included with the annual accounts on the next page.*

### RESOURCES

**FINANCE:** *The annual accounts cover the year ended 31 March 2010.* Income from all sources was £1878.58, while total expenditure was £1795.24, resulting in a small increase in our resources of £83.34, after major outgoings last year. In future accounts the independent examiner has recommended that we also record the value of the publications stock held.

We should also remember that support "in kind" from individual members with newsletter deliveries, staffing stalls, reporting back from meetings of many bodies, and other odd tasks are valuable contributions to maintaining the Society's current level of activity.

**MEMBERSHIP:** We have noted a slow decline in paid-up members living locally, so we are making renewed efforts to sign up new members. Subscriptions were reviewed but increases are the minimum needed to cover our core costs.

*Alan Piper, Hon. Secretary.*



### How to Contact Us

#### Editorial and Event Notices:

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

Material for the next issue should be sent before 5<sup>th</sup> September 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 enquiries to (020) 7207 0347

#### Publications & Membership:

Book orders, membership renewals and changes to our mailing list should all be sent to the Membership Secretary, Diana Linskey at 32 Stockwell Green, SW9 9HZ, or by e-mail to [wjdcl@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:wjdcl@globalnet.co.uk)

#### Planning Issues:

If you are concerned about a particular planning application, contact David Warner at [david@scriabin.force9.net](mailto:david@scriabin.force9.net) or by phone on (020) 7924 0618.

For wider plans and policies, contact Alan Piper as above.

#### Get E-mail updates

If we had e-mail addresses for more of our members, we could alert you to late changes in meeting arrangements, or share information about other events and developments that arrives between quarterly issues of the newsletter. A quick e-mail to the Secretary is all we need, or just remember to include your e-mail address on your membership form.

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

# The Brixton Society - Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2010

	2009/10	2008/9
Opening Balance	777.54	1,505.84
Held Funds		5,410.00
GRANTS/AWARDS*		1,274.00
Members' Subscriptions	601.00	539.00
Sale of Publications, etc	1,059.39	1,408.58
Donations	335.30	461.48
Refunds	0.00	0.00
Postage	21.30	21.96
Bank Interest	1.05	5.01
Bank Transfer	0.00	
Sub-Total	2,018.04	2,436.03 c
Discounts	-139.46	-283.22
Receipts less discounts	1,878.58	2,152.81 c
Opening Bal+Rec	2,656.12	10,342.65 c

## Payments

Photocopying	3.26	5.00
Newsletter Prod	502.00	353.34
Postage	173.70	290.62
Stationery	39.64	19.97
Publications - purchase	0.00	81.00
Publications - printing		5,621.52
Posters/Leaflets/Banner	47.51	35.26
Insurance Cost	58.00	58.00
Subscriptions	70.00	165.00
Cost of Meetings	275.00	825.00
Miscellaneous	81.00	71.38
Equipment	0.00	1,308.69
Open Square Weekend	169.67	350.00
Catering/Refreshments	191.95	194.16
Website hosting	180.00	176.17
Bank Charges	3.51	10.00
Total Payments	1,795.24	9,565.11 c
Balance	860.88	777.54 c

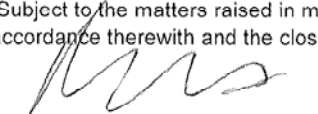
Closing Balance	860.88	777.54 c
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## Details of Publications Sold

Town Trails	90.00	117.00
Memories	19.96	34.93
Unearthed	39.60	0.00
Brixton - Story of a name	26.00	5.00
Effra - Lambeth's Underground River	51.00	9.00
Home Secrets	29.70	31.98
Maps	68.75	25.35
Brixton Abridged	2.60	1.30
Postcards	213.60	146.00
History of Brixton	269.73	419.58
Brixton Market LT poster	26.00	26.00
Brixton Boy WWII	79.68	59.76
Black British Celebration	85.50	453.00
Synagogue	57.27	79.68
	1,059.39 c	1,408.58 c
Less Discount	-139.46	-283.22
	919.93	1,125.36 c

## Statement by External Accountant

Subject to the matters raised in my report I have reviewed the cash book and the totals of receipts and payments stated above are in accordance therewith and the closing balance is in accordance with the statements furnished by the Society's bankers

  
Ben Bennett CPFA  
Date





## "What's Your Vision for the Market?"

Friends of Brixton Market held a workshop in May to start to develop a vision for the future of the market that we can present to community, council and landlords to protect and promote the market. The workshop was brilliant and attended by a variety of Brixtonians (including a number of Brixton Society members!).

We started with a tour of the market asking a range of traders about the issues they face and ideas they have, then had the workshop with tasty food provided by market traders. There was also a lively debate on Brixton's website Urban 75, which will feed into the vision.

This spread gives a flavour of some of the ideas and discussions. Next steps are to talk to some experts (such as the New Economics Foundation) and then write up to report back to the community. The draft document should be available on FBM's website by the end of the Summer.

Please get in contact ([contact@friendsofbrixtonmarket.org](mailto:contact@friendsofbrixtonmarket.org)) to put forward your views or help us develop our vision.

See [www.friendsofbrixtonmarket.org](http://www.friendsofbrixtonmarket.org) for more info and to join FBM...

*"I would like to see a balance between the 'old' and the 'new' so that everyone can share the benefits."*

*Workshop attendee*

### DIVERSITY

Brixton market is socially, economically and culturally diverse - people want it to stay that way. How can we work together with traders, Council and landlords to make sure the market is there for everyone in Brixton?

### FACILITIES

The market could do with lots of improvements, big and small - what about Sunday opening hours, better parking, loading bays, traffic flows, better signage, an interactive map of the market, repainting, new lighting, new toilets, benches - what other practical improvements could be made to the market's facilities?

### NEW USES

Brixton Market provides opportunities for new services, new community facilities, new ways of shopping and living together: could the market offer delivery services, new facilities on the roofs of the covered markets, monthly events, recycling points, community information points?

**Sunday opening!**

**A Brixton Market Brand?**

*"Brixton Market has a sense of home"*

*Workshop attendee*

As part of a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis, below lists what people said. What do you think about them?

### Opportunities

- Signage from main road/stations
- Increase porosity
- Recession/trading down - working with Landlords?
- Changing values - shopping locally
- Contained 'randomness'
- Recreation Centre and marketing the market
- Tap into youth culture - future shoppers
- Coldharbour Lane Plaza
- Listing - heritage trail?
- Art - installations?
- Opening upper areas
- Use of roof - green spaces/gardens
- Energy - install photovoltaic tiles - have a carbon neutral market?
- Inventive architecture
- Community efforts re issues, neglected buildings etc
- More non-chi chi cafes
- Council to use units as advice centres
- Improve the look of frontages
- Community shops
- Locally produced food/swap shops
- Employment opportunities - start ups/young entrepreneurs

### Threats

- Landlords - LAP
- Rent rises - mismanagement
- Redevelopment
- Entrenched traders
- Council mismanagement - bad PR
- Cultural exclusion
- Neglect
- Recession
- Government funding cuts
- Housing development proposals
- Heritage - transforming the market into a museum
- Being taken over by Borough Market
- Becoming like Portobello (All Saints), Kings Road, Spitalfields
- Chain stores



### Around Railton Road

Our *History of Brixton* published back in 1996 included a very brief account of the development of the streets around Railton Road in the late 1800s. In recent years more material has come to light, so we can now add a little more to the story, with some hints for local residents interested in researching the history of their own house. If any readers have further contributions or comments, we would be glad to hear from you.



### In search of Edinburgh Terrace

Last year I took a fresh look at the origins of Railton Road when evidence was requested for a court case, a boundary dispute over an access path behind some of the shops halfway along the road.

One side-effect of Lambeth Council buying up large slices of Brixton in the 1970s is that a good selection of title deeds have since been handed down to Lambeth Archives at the Minet Library. These deeds – particularly the older versions – reveal the original developers and often the intended plot boundaries. The picture that emerges is of several owners developing large chunks of land with scant regard for what their neighbours were doing, but all taking advantage of the opening of Herne Hill and Brixton railway stations to build new houses and shops to let.

However, it soon became clear that some property numbers had changed – in fact houses in Railton Road were re-numbered in two stages, first in 1879 from Brixton up to the original St.Jude's School, continuing south in

1888 to include the former West Place, Lett Street and Bransby Road up to the present gateway to Brockwell Park. These changes are recorded in documents from the old Metropolitan Board of Works, an ancestor of the GLA.

The Archives also hold a good selection of local directories, which helped build up a picture of what the different shops had been used for over a long period. Post-1945, other records add to the story, such as Planning applications and various enforcement actions taken by the Council while the neighbourhood endured first the stress of threatened demolition, and then attempts at rescuing the neglected buildings to eventually improve the area. Add to this the area's role as the focal point for the 1981 Brixton Riots, and the result is many official and press sources to draw upon.

As for Edinburgh Terrace itself, like Saltoun and Mervan Roads nearby, it was part of a large estate owned by a Scotsman, James Stuart. He died before much of it had been developed, so it is his executors whose names appear on most of the original building leases – his widow Helen, her sister Anna and the sister's husband, Major General Michael Bruce. It seems that the estate was eventually divided among the next generation of the Bruce family, whose names appear as freeholders on later deeds or leases. In contrast, the builders were mostly local, including John Cobeldick of Dalyell Road, Stockwell, and Earle Bird of Shepherds Lane (now Ferndale Road).

### Why is Mayall Road so called?

Nearby, Mayall Road and the adjacent properties in Railton Road all originate with one developer, a Dr Edward Westall who in 1869 bought 9 acres of the Lambeth Wick estate from the Church Commissioners, together with surplus land from the London Chatham & Dover Railway Company. Again the builders were local - some of the houses were built by the Goodman brothers of Mostyn Road, Brixton, and others by Anthony Peacock, whose own (larger) house stood next to the modern Robert Burns Mews.

## Local History Focus

I had long assumed that the road took its name from John Mayall, a prominent Victorian photographer based in Brighton and later resident in Lancing, Sussex. However, other residents have discovered an old press report which suggests it was more likely intended to commemorate his son, John Mayall junior, also a photographer, but based in London. He became famous in 1869 for the first cycle ride from London to Brighton, which ties in well with laying out the new road.



Figure 8. C. G. Harper, sketch from 1886 photograph for illustration in his book *The Brighton Road* (1892).<sup>(12)</sup>

The following appeared in *The Times* on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1869:

### **London to Brighton by Velocipede:**

On Wednesday Mr John Mayall, jun., son of the well-known photographer, accomplished the journey from London to Brighton on one of the new two-wheel velocipedes. He was accompanied by two friends, Mr Spencer and Mr Turner, also on velocipedes.

They had a preliminary run round Trafalgar Square, and then started off at the rate of eight miles an hour on roads which proved to be generally good, but against a very strong wind all the way. They kept pretty well together as far as Crawley (30 miles), after which Mr Mayall took a decided lead, and arrived in Brighton in time and in good condition for dinner, and the second part of Mr Kube's concert at the Grand Hall. Part of the journey, down hill from Clayton to Brighton, was run at the speed of one mile in four minutes.

## Dexter Playground

Following completion of Thames Water's sewer works, steps are being taken to remodel the Dexter Adventure Playground in Railton Road. Ashvin de Vos of Erectarchitecture has sought our help in tracing the foundations of the old houses which it replaced.

The SW side of Railton Road up to No.56, together with a terrace forming Dexter Road (now Montego Close) were developed by John Roycroft of Brixton Hill in 1873, on land previously owned by Benedict Angell. Roycroft also laid out Somerleyton and Geneva Roads, Vining Street, and most of Atlantic Road.

During the Second World War, some of the houses were bombed and the cleared site was used to lay out a sunken water tank for fire-fighting purposes. This left No.46, the Dexter Cafe, at the corner of Dexter Road, and Nos 2-30 as two-storey houses nearer Kellett Road. In the early 1970s, Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association (BNCA) acquired use of the empty water tank as a playground – though it still tended to flood after heavy rain! At the time of the original Brixton Riots in April 1981, most of the buildings fronting this part of Railton Road were being demolished. Soon after, as an interim measure, the rubble was used to fill in the old water tank to form a ball games area. Around 1986, the playground was extended along the whole frontage and given a new boundary fence. The playground is now managed by LYSADA, but during the recent sewer works, Thames Water's contractors occupied nearly half.

*Alan Piper.*

## Sharing old photos

Social movement "We Are What We Do" last month launched a new website in partnership with Google. **Historypin** invites the public to dig out, upload and pin their own old photos – plus the stories behind them – onto the Historypin map.

Uniquely, it allows users to layer their old images onto modern Street View scenes for comparison – have a look at:

[www.wearewhatwedo.org/generations](http://www.wearewhatwedo.org/generations)



### Stockwell Scout memories on the web

*Harold Wyld e-mailed us from Walmer in Kent:*

The creation of the "Swamplanders" website was prompted by a bit of "spring cleaning" and my unearthing a pack of old Scout memorabilia from my time in the 8<sup>th</sup> Lambeth nearly 60 years ago. It seemed a shame to consign the various news clippings, photos and log books to the paper recycling bank, so reluctant to venture out during the recent icy winter, I decided to spend a few days scanning the more interesting items and producing some on-line web pages. These prompted Stan Allen (who still looks after the 8<sup>th</sup> Lambeth as Group Manager) and Bob Hay, a former Queen's Scout, to let me have bundles of further material. As a result, a few pages turned into a much more substantial website.

Although the website features a lot of quirky humour that today some might find baffling, it is a reasonably accurate representation of the things that amused the 8<sup>th</sup> Lambeth Senior Scouts and Rovers – or the "Swamplanders" as they called themselves - back in 1960. Indeed that humour and sense of fun was an important part of the "glue" that kept the older members of the Group coming back week after week.

It occurs to me that my decision to store some of the 8<sup>th</sup> Lambeth Scouts history on the Internet might be an approach that other voluntary groups could try. There is a real danger that a lot of old material that could form a useful resource for future historians will be lost. All those fading newsletters and photos could so easily be consigned to the tip by relatives anxious to clear a deceased owner's home.

**Swamplanders Revisited** records the exploits of the 8<sup>th</sup> Lambeth's Rovers and Senior Scouts in the late 1950s and early 1960s, with selected newsletters and photos. It's at [www.northdowns.plus.com/swamplanders](http://www.northdowns.plus.com/swamplanders)

*Despite the passage of time, the 8<sup>th</sup> Lambeth are still meeting weekly at St.Michael's Church in Stockwell Park Road (at the rear on Fridays,*

*7-15 to 9 pm) where they have been since starting up in 1909.*

*Harold Wyld is a former resident of Coldharbour Lane who moved out to Bexley with his parents in the mid-1960s. In 1960, Harold's cartoon strip for the group's newsletter migrated to the national magazine "The Scout". Under the pen-name "Aitch" he continued to produce cartoons in later years while working in the Scout Association's public relations department – I remember creatively "re-cycling" some of them in local Scout newsletters when I was looking after public relations for South Lambeth Scouts during the 1970s.*

*Alan Piper*

### Black Cultural Archives

In our last issue we reported that Lambeth Council had agreed to contribute £800,000 to running costs.

Paul Reid, Director of BCA, contacted us to point out that this was not an annual budget – the package of support totals £910,000 but is spread over 5 years, consisting of £100,000 capital and a total of £810,000 revenue over the whole 5 years.

### What did you do in the Blitz, Granny?

Testimony Films are making a television documentary about the first day and night of the Blitz, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 1940. By the Sunday morning about 450 Londoners were dead and another 1600 seriously injured. The focus of the air raids was the London Docks, so the East End was worst affected, but bombs fell in other parts of London too. If you have any memories of this day or stories to tell, please contact Amy Dunn on 0117 925 8589 or at [amy.dunn@testimonyfilms.com](mailto:amy.dunn@testimonyfilms.com) or write to: Blitz Appeal, Testimony Films, 12 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5RH.

*The office diary of Lambeth Civil Defence HQ records some local raids before this date. For example on 29<sup>th</sup> August there were bombs dropped around Loughborough Road, Minet Road, Carew Street and Flodden Road, all on the North-East side of Brixton.*

### Edwardian Splendours

Open Day at Lambeth Archives always includes several short talks, and in 2008, to mark the centenary of Lambeth Town Hall, Edmund Bird gave a talk on this building and other examples of Edwardian architecture. Edmund has since collaborated with Fiona Price, local studies librarian, to develop the original talk into a 72-page book. This has been published as a joint venture between Lambeth Archives and Lambeth Local History Forum, launched to a packed house at the Carnegie Library on 19 May.

The book captures a wide selection of examples around the borough, including some now at risk, such as the "Duke of Wellington" pub in Acre Lane, some much altered, such as the former Temperance Billiard Hall at 409 Coldharbour Lane, and a few that are long gone, such as the Brixton Roller Skating Rink at the foot of Tulse Hill. There was a limited print run but we acquired a batch to sell on our stall, at £7 each – see us at the Country Show or you may miss your chance to buy one!

### Membership Subscriptions

Some months ago, your Committee asked the Treasurer, Norma Williamson and the Membership Secretary, Diana Linskey to produce a report on our current membership subscription rates and income.

They reported to the May Committee meeting that income from subscriptions was not covering the basic running costs of the Society and by quite a wide margin. We do all we can to contain costs - not least through the dedicated help of the local distributors of this Newsletter, for which we are very grateful. But, for example, quite a number of Newsletters do have to be posted, and costs keep rising.

For some time now, the gap between subscription income and costs has been filled by the proceeds of the sale of our publications. The money from sales should be accumulating to fund future publications. This has not been happening so that you may have noticed we have not published any new postcards for several years. Our most recent publication, *The Brixton Synagogue*, was only possible because we received a grant. This not only frustrates our ability to publish local history, it

is not viable in the long run as our stock depletes and is not replaced.

The Committee agreed with the Officers' recommendation that subscription income needed to increase - partly through an increase in subscription rates and partly through a membership drive. This decision was endorsed by the AGM in June.

Accordingly, the new rates of subscription from 1 July 2010 are as follows: Individuals £8, Unwaged £3, Groups and businesses: £15. Your annual membership renewal form is enclosed. I do hope you will renew your membership if you have not already done so and continue to support the work of the Society.

We have already made a start on a recruitment drive by attending as many events as possible this summer to promote the Society - including the one we organised! (see enclosed colour supplement which, incidentally, has been donated and so is not costing the Society). We have recruited 23 new members in three weeks, which is a good start.

Now - will you please help? Enclosed with this newsletter you should find a membership leaflet. Just one - that is all it takes. If each member can persuade just one of their neighbours to join the Society, we double our membership. Will you please try to recruit a new member for us? Many thanks.

*Bill Linskey  
Chair*

### Glyn Kyle

Glyn retired as Chair of the Brixton Society just before the AGM in June 2008, but remained active in several other local organisations. However, in September 2009 he had to scale down his commitments after being diagnosed with a brain tumour. This was operated on in December, and although the tumour proved to be benign, recovery has been slow and Glyn no longer has his old energy. He will therefore be standing down as Chair of Streatham Darby & Joan Club at their AGM in September. After 3 years as Chair of Age Concern Lambeth, Glyn was succeeded by Steven Forbes last November. Glyn has recently been clearing out some old Brixton Society papers, and has arranged to pass these on to us.

*ADP*

### Renewed demolition threat to Guinness Trust Estate

Back in 2006, the Guinness Trust promoted a radical rebuilding of its estate in Loughborough Park. This would have replaced the 400 flats on the 1938 estate by taller blocks and extra flats, generally smaller and with a single aspect. The distinctive community block at the centre of the estate would have disappeared.

After numerous objections, that planning application was withdrawn, but now the Trust has returned with something that sounds very similar, though so far only tenants have been shown any proposals, with threats not to recognise tenants who organise against it. If a new planning application is made, we will look at it very critically.

### The Co-operative Council

We hinted in our last issue that Lambeth's Labour administration had some radical changes in mind, and since re-election in May they have been fleshing out their ideas. A fat report was launched last month, "The Co-operative Council" though what that really means is still to be considered by a special Commission of Councillors and their friends. In launching the report, Council Leader Steve Reed talked in terms of a "John Lewis" model for the Council, an unfortunate example given that their past Planning policies closed the two John Lewis branches in the borough, in Brixton back in 1976 and later in Streatham.

At this stage, proposals are very abstract and it's difficult to tell whether the inclination is to contract out more services, encourage local community groups or worker-co-operatives to run them, pool the work with other boroughs or just give up on providing selected services altogether. Nevertheless, we will study the report and try to feed back comments by the tight deadline of the end of August. As usual, we would be glad to hear from our members on this issue.

The Council is currently highlighting the report at mini-displays around the borough, and they will have more information at the Lambeth Country Show, though a public meeting had not been set as we went to press.

### Recognition for our Town Centre Manager

We offer our congratulations to Stephanie Butcher, Brixton Town Centre Manager, for being named as Champion of the Year. The award comes from the Association of Town Centre Managers, so recognition by one's peers is particularly prestigious.

### Brixton Art Gallery remembered

Artists involved with the gallery in the 1980s and their acolytes got together last month for a symposium at the University of Westminster. Founder members of the original Brixton Artists' Collective are keen to record work and activities from the time in some form of archive, which will be officially launched in the Autumn. The archive will eventually be lodged with the Tate Archive, but Lambeth Archives and various academic institutions are also supporters. Enquiries to Stefan Szczelkun at [S.Szczelkun@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:S.Szczelkun@westminster.ac.uk) or see also [www.brixton50.co.uk](http://www.brixton50.co.uk)

### Local Listing Deadline

This must be the final reminder to send us suggestions for buildings or features to include in the Council's Local List, to Alan Piper by the **end of this month** please. We have had some interesting proposals already, including some of the murals painted c.30 years ago.

### Brixton Bee-hives

There have been alarming reports about the decline of bees in rural areas, but urban gardens and parks probably offer a healthier variety of pollen sources.

In **Myatt's Fields Park**, some bee hives have recently been placed in the waste area of the park, and will be cared for by bee-keeper Barnaby Shaw over the next year. There will be a few open days to find out more about bee-keeping. **Transition Town Brixton's** Food & Growing Group is already setting up a natural bee-keeping course, with a view to setting up more hives locally – contact Steve Tooze at [stevetooze1000@googlemail.com](mailto:stevetooze1000@googlemail.com)