

# THE BRIXTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer, July 2013

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Distributed free to members.

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

Our next appearance:

## **Saturday 13 July Brixton Market Walk**

Depart 2-30 pm, Brixton Station Road  
Meet at the Makerhood stall, opposite the  
Recreation Centre.

## **Weekend 20 & 21 July Lambeth Country Show**

11 am to 7 pm, Brockwell Park, SE24  
Look out for our stall in the usual area – if you  
enter by the Herne Hill gate, we are to the right  
of the path up to Brockwell Hall, second row  
back, a corner site facing uphill towards the  
Village Markets area (site ZW19).

## **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September: Brixton History evening**

7 pm at the Vida Walsh Centre,  
2b Saltoun Road SW2  
Playing Detective – some investigations into  
Brixton's local history: 2 short illustrated talks  
plus a display of local history material, with  
light refreshments (part of Lambeth Heritage  
Festival - see page 8 inside)

## **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September: Open Day at Lambeth Archives**

10 am to 5 pm at the Minet Library,  
Knatchbull Road, SE5.

This year's focus is Lambeth a century ago,  
just before the outbreak of the Great War.

### **Helpers wanted**

By now we will have settled arrangements for  
staffing our stall through the Country Show  
weekend, but we welcome offers of help at the  
Autumn events and monthly Market Walks.  
If you can spare some time to help on our stall,  
please call Diana Linskey on (020) 7274 3835  
or e-mail to [wjdc1@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:wjdc1@globalnet.co.uk)



*At the Windmill Festival, 22 June*

### **Our next Summer Walks...**

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July Herne Hill from Coldharbour La.**

Meet 2-30 pm outside Loughborough Junction  
Station, Coldharbour Lane, SW9 for a walk led  
by Alan Piper via Ruskin Park, the summit of  
Herne Hill and Milkwood Community Park.

*Bus routes P4, P5, 35, 45, 345.*

## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September E. Brixton & Myatt's Fields**

Meet at 2-30 pm at Loughborough Junction  
Station (as above). This walk around Brixton's  
eastern fringes finishes in Myatt's Fields Park.

## Late Summer Dates 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).

- **11 July,**
- **10 October**
- **14 November**

### Market Walks

Our guided walks around the market area continue on the second **Saturday** of each month, at £3 including the illustrated booklet of the route. Tickets available via our website or after 12 noon on the day from our stall in Brixton Station Road (shared with Makerhood). Walks set out from there at **2-30 pm** and take about an hour and a half.

- **13 July**
- **10 August**
- **14 September**

### Links with Other Groups

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

#### **Sunday 14 July –**

##### **Laugh with Mary:**

A FUNdraising comedy night featuring **Jo Brand, Omid Djalili, Bobby Davro** and others at the **Jamm** (the Old White Horse) Brixton Road, c/o Loughborough Road, to help raise funds for a statue to Mary Seacole.

The web link for buying tickets is:

<http://brixton.fatsoma.com/events/89182/> and also see: [www.maryseacoleappeal.org.uk](http://www.maryseacoleappeal.org.uk) for more background.

#### **Monday 15 July –**

##### **Streatham Art & Artists**

Talk by Brian Bloice, 8 pm at Woodlawns, Streatham Darby & Joan Club, 16 Leigham Court Rd., SW16. *The Streatham Society*

#### **Friday 19 July –**

##### **Healthy Finance Fair**

11 am to 3 pm at Lambeth Town Hall, offers help with budgeting, bank accounts, energy bills and debt issues. Part of Healthy Finances Week – also look out for the campaign tent during the Lambeth Country Show. *Lambeth Council*

#### **Sunday 11 August –**

##### **Another Wandle Walk**

Exploring another section of the River Wandle, led by Alan Piper. Meet at **2-30 pm** outside Colliers Wood Station (Northern Line). *Lambethans Society*

#### **Wednesday 14 August –**

##### **Clapham Evening Walk**

Meet at **6-30 pm** outside Clapham North Station (Northern Line) for a walk around Clapham's North end, led by Peter Jefferson Smith. *Clapham Society*

#### **Friday 16 August –**

##### **Moth Night**

David Gardner leads a viewing – meet at **8 pm** at the entrance to the Walled

Garden. Wear sensible shoes, and no dogs please!

*Friends of Brockwell Park*

#### **Sunday 18 August –**

##### **Walk from Peckham to Burgess Park**

Meet at **2 pm** at Peckham Rye Station, SE15. *Peckham Society*

#### **Sunday 31 August –**

##### **Bat Walk**

Led by Dr Iain Boulton: meet at **7-30 pm** by the clock tower in the centre of the park (capes optional?). *Friends of Brockwell Park*

#### **Wednesday 11 Sept. –**

##### **King's College Hospital:**

An illustrated talk to mark the hospital's centenary on its Denmark Hill site. 7-30 pm for 7-45 start, Herne Hill United Church Hall, c/o Redpost Hill and Herne Hill, SE24. *Herne Hill Society*

#### **Wednesday 18 Sept. –**

##### **Sew Over It**

Lisa Comfort will talk about setting up and running Sew Over It, her sewing cafe at **78 Landor Road, SW9**. It opened in 2011, offering classes in dress-making, soft furnishing, crochet and knitting, as well as access to sewing machines and skilled help. Lisa studied at the London College of Fashion and later worked for designer Bruce Oldfield and bridal couturier Philippa Lepley. 7-30 for 8 pm start, at **Clapham Manor** Primary School, entrance in Belmont Road, SW4 0BZ. *Clapham Society*

### Town Centre Plans update

The Supplementary Planning Document has been adopted with limited amendments. The thrust of the SPD is still only a broad strategy, placing reliance on the Lambeth Local Plan to provide the specifics. We will of course be following that up as it goes through revisions in the months ahead.

### Somerleyton Road plans:

**Thursday 18 July, 4 pm to 8 pm**

Guided walks set out on the hour (last at 7 pm) from by the temporary school, followed by discussions back at base.

For sites along Somerleyton Road, proposals in the SPD have been worked up into a development brief, based on inputs from Brixton Green and Oval Theatre. However, members raised concerns at our AGM about how enough Affordable Housing could be included, given Lambeth's lack of interest in mainstream Council housing, and its long-standing hostility to co-operative or self-build housing models.

### Recent Planning Cases

Some interesting cases – and difficult choices – are for sites where planning applications are yet to be made, so tell us your views!

Another Brixton pub seems likely to disappear – the **Canterbury Arms** at the corner of Popes Road and Canterbury Crescent. Developers are proposing a 9-storey block of flats, which would adjoin the temporary Ice Rink. Part of the ground floor could be another use, but passing footfall is unlikely to attract retailers and the flats above would rule out a late-night entertainment venue. This is an opportunity for a community centre with ground-level access, or for re-creating a traditional pub, but in both cases long-term financial viability is tricky.

Meanwhile, just across the road, Lambeth Council has offered **International House** for conversion to residential use as part of the deal with developers for the SW2 Enterprise Centre, a re-vamp of the 1971 Town Hall extension plans.

The Brix have appointed landscape architects SHAPE to draw up ideas for **St. Matthew's Peace Garden**. Long ago, the church passed the original churchyard to Lambeth Council to maintain, save for a very small area around it, including the forecourt parking. The Brix's proposals are based on managing the space as a whole, and improving access into both the building and the churchyard..

In the back streets south of Acre Lane, the old Tuborg Lager depot between **Mauleverer and Mandrell Roads** has finally attracted the attention of house-builders. It seems the last owners surrendered the plot to their bank, who split it in two. Proposals for 8 family houses on the eastern half seem innocuous until you notice the 1983 mural painted along the whole Mauleverer Road wall of the warehouse. The developers have offered to fund a new mural elsewhere in the neighbourhood but the same issue could arise when the owners of the western half of the depot in turn develop their part, which has the better-preserved section of the mural.

*Alan Piper*

### Community Infrastructure Levy – revised draft

To recap, the concept is that new building projects pay a fair share towards the demands they place on the local infrastructure. Developers will pay set charges depending on the floorspace, location and use of their building. Smaller buildings will be exempt and some uses will pay no charge in certain parts of the borough. Since April 2012, the Mayor has run a similar scheme to help pay for CrossRail.

A draft scheme was aired in Autumn last year (Newsletter 207, p.6) and a revised version has recently appeared for comments. There are still some anomalies, such as Brixton Bus Garage being in the same zone as The Oval!

As with all such proposals, send us your views so we can draft a response. The deadline for comments is 12<sup>th</sup> August, to [lambethcilconsultation@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:lambethcilconsultation@lambeth.gov.uk)

### Brain of Lambeth Quiz

**Thursday 26 September**

**7-30 pm for 7-45 start, Lambeth Town Hall**

Run by the Lambethans Society in a “pub quiz” format for teams of 4, with rounds of questions on general knowledge topics including Lambeth and London. This year’s quiz is slightly earlier than usual, to form part of Lambeth’s Heritage Festival, running through September.

If you are thinking of entering a team, whether on behalf of a local group or as a family, telling the quizmaster in advance helps things run smoothly on the night – call John Moore on (020) 8677 6490 or ideally by e-mail to [moore309@hotmail.com](mailto:moore309@hotmail.com)

### Townscape Heritage Bid – another angle

Back in October last year, we announced that Lambeth Council had finally decided to follow up funding from English Heritage towards restoring historic facades within Brixton Town Centre. So far, the bid has got through the first stage, which provides initial funding for working up proposals in more detail. The focus of attention will be around Electric Avenue and Atlantic Road. Somebody should be recruited to work on this from September, so that the final package can be submitted in Spring 2014.

English Heritage expects to see wider community involvement, rather than just subsidising a Council building programme, so a number of local groups have been signed up as stakeholders. Approval will depend on the essential repairs being backed up by activities which raise the profile of the area and increase respect for the townscape in future.

We are anxious that this package should build on community strengths and bring some local benefits, rather than the hasty jumble of ideas in the consultant’s draft proposals. Our Chair has already enlisted assistance from a group of graduate students at the Royal College of Art, who have investigated alternatives to the traditional approach of sticking plaques on historic buildings to record the personalities or events associated with them.

The students made several visits to Brixton, including running a market stall on a couple of winter Saturdays to pick up grass-roots comments and stories. Their emerging proposals were presented last month, based on concealed speakers which would play pre-recorded commentaries or stories when somebody stands at a suitable trigger point.

*Alan Piper*

### Remember Prefabs?

Prefabs were intended as temporary replacements for houses bombed during the Second World War. Improvised wartime examples near the foot of Tulse Hill and in Loughborough Road were based on Army Nissen huts and replaced within 10 years by “proper” Council housing. However, most were provided in 1946-50, in 11 different types, and often lasted well beyond their intended lifespan.

They were popular mainly because each family had a bungalow on its own plot. Photographer Elisabeth Blanchet has spent a decade documenting those that survive around the country. Even today there are still survivors in South London – isolated cases in remote parts of Nunhead and a pocket east of Catford, for example.

#### **Prefabs: Palaces for the People**

is an exhibition of photos by Elisabeth Blanchet at **Photofusion**, Electric Lane SW9 until 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

### Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme rolls on

This programme is managed by Lambeth Council but mainly funded by Transport for London, with about £230,000 to be spent in each area by April 2014. The current target areas on our patch are Vassall and Ferndale Wards, and that part of Coldharbour Ward north of Coldharbour Lane. The main topics covered are highways including road safety measures, pedestrian and cycling facilities, street trees and other landscape features.

Ideas already suggested in other areas include a community car club, murals, an outdoor gym

## Notes & News

and a play street. The NEP has supported the Edible Bus Stop in Landor Road. Local meetings should be taking place this month in the selected areas, so that final decisions can be made in the early Autumn and the measures put in place by April 2014. Enquiries to [nep@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:nep@lambeth.gov.uk) or phone (020) 7926 7009.



*Affordable housing in Hackford Road? No, it's secure cycle storage provided on-street as part of NEP improvements unveiled in April.*

### Extending Recycling

Lambeth's latest recycling initiative is to provide kerbside banks for used batteries and light bulbs – particularly for low energy bulbs which contain elements harmful to the environment. There are 7 sites around our part of the borough:

- Acre Lane, outside Tesco;
- Loughborough Road shops, corner of Barrington Road SW9;
- Brixton Road, by Max Roach Park,
- Garlinge House, Cowley Estate, SW9;
- Corner of High Trees and Tulse Hill,
- Railton Road, between No.239 and Alexander House,
- Larkhall Lane, by Larkhall Park.

### Brixton Windmill openings

Guided tours of the windmill are available on selected dates until mid-October:

Saturday 10 August, 2 pm - 5 pm,  
Sunday 11 August, 2 pm – 5 pm,

Sunday 25 August, 2 pm – 5 pm,

Saturday 14 September, 2 pm – 5 pm,  
Sunday 15 September, 2 pm – 5 pm,

Saturday 21 September, 1 pm – 5 pm,  
Sunday 22 September, 1 pm to 5 pm,  
(London Open House weekend)

Saturday 5 October, 2 pm – 5 pm,

Saturday 12 October, 2 pm – 5 pm,  
Sunday 13 October, 2 pm – 5 pm.

For the full tour, visiting all floors within the mill, you will need to book in advance – see [www.brixtonwindmill.org/visit](http://www.brixtonwindmill.org/visit)

At present, tours are free but you can support the work of the Friends of Windmill Gardens by purchasing souvenirs or publications from the stall outside the mill.

### March of the Supermarkets

Clearly the full force of “Gentrification” has not reached Brixton yet – so far, only Clapham has attracted a mini-Waitrose! However, the scandal over Tesco's takeover of the George IV pub is not the only case of supermarkets forcing their way into smaller sites on our patch. The Loughborough Junction Action Group have been campaigning since February over the dangerous situation created by the new Tesco Express in the former Warrior pub on Coldharbour Lane. The new stores may be smaller but the delivery lorries are still full-size. Their parking outside the store reduces traffic to a single line on a difficult bend.

The council's transport planning team are finally introducing loading restrictions to prevent deliveries on weekdays 7-10 am and 4-7pm. Meanwhile Tesco have agreed to limit deliveries to between 10 am and 3 pm. LJAG would like to hear if problems continue, at [ljactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:ljactiongroup@gmail.com)

2-10 pm, 29 June '13



## The Brixton Society

Understanding the Past,  
Looking to the Future  
Registered Charity No.1058103,  
Registered with the London Forum  
of Amenity Societies

Website: [www.brixtonsociety.org.uk](http://www.brixtonsociety.org.uk)

### Annual Report 2013

#### AIMS & ORGANISATION

**STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT:** The Society is a registered charity and an unincorporated association. The society's constitution was last revised at the 2008 AGM, to reflect current charity law, but further amendments for clarification were adopted at this year's AGM.

The Executive Committee met 9 times between Annual General Meetings, consisting of Bill Linskey (Chair), Annick Alet, Doye Akinlade, John Cunningham, Barbara Davies, Tom Harle, Phil Isaac, Rosemary Honey, Diana Linskey, Alan Piper, Marilyn Rogers, Devon Thomas, Eileen Walkin, David Warner, Nicholas Weedon, Norma Williamson, and Laura Swaffield (co-opted from the Friends of Lambeth Libraries).

**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 Society is 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.

#### PROGRAMME & ACTIVITIES

##### PLANNING & REGENERATION:

We aim to comment on significant local planning applications, and also to suggest buildings for protection through listing, conservation areas or Lambeth's Local List. It is more efficient though to focus on overall planning policy documents rather than individual cases. Thus we submitted detailed comments on the draft Brixton Town Centre supplementary planning document, and on the latest version of the Lambeth Local Plan. We are supporting

Brixton's bid to the Townscape Heritage Initiative programme.

To keep in touch with London-wide and national policies, in the past year we have been more closely involved with the London Forum of Amenity Societies.

**NETWORKING:** We are in touch with a wide range of community groups. We also try to respond to a varied stream of e-mail enquiries from students, media and family historians.

We have participated in the Brixton Neighbourhood Forum, Brockwell Park Community Partners (the Management Advisory Committee), Lambeth Police/Community Consultative Group, Lambeth Local History Forum, Friends of Lambeth Libraries, Lambeth Civic Forum and Lambeth Parks Forum. We are supporting the Friends of Tate Library and the Friends of Windrush Square, which operate as sub-committees of the Society.



*Notice-board recently installed in Windrush Square, near Effra Road.*

**EVENTS:** For Open Garden Squares weekend 2012, we organised a "Brixton Communities" event with support from the Peter Minet Trust. We also put on displays or stalls at the Brixton Windmill Festival, Mervan Road street party and Lambeth Archives Open Day. This year, we will be back at the Lambeth Country Show in July.

## Annual Report 2013

In addition to our summer guided walks for the Lambeth Local History Forum, we lead monthly walks around the market area to coincide with the Makers' Market on the second Saturday of each month.



**PUBLICATIONS:** The website continues to develop, becoming a vital channel for wider sales of our publications. More postcards will be added to our range this summer. We distribute some 300 copies of our Newsletter quarterly, including key groups and local councillors.

### RESOURCES

**MEMBERSHIP:** Paid-up members had increased slightly to 200, but most are due to renew in July, so the Country Show is a great opportunity to do so. Over two thirds of Newsletters go out via a network of 14 volunteers, with a useful saving in postage. Other support "in kind" from individual members includes staffing stalls, reporting back from a variety of meetings, and other tasks which all help maintain the Society's level of activity.

**FINANCE:** Draft accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 were presented to the AGM, but the final version will appear in our autumn Newsletter. Annual income was £3512 but there were no new grants for the Windrush Square art event, so total spent was £4190. Subscriptions were last revised at the 2010 AGM.

### 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 interested in the Brixton area, so opinions expressed in the newsletter 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

By 15 September for the Autumn issue.

### Government puts the screws on affordable housing

Figures announced in the Government's Spending Review show a slight reduction from the current Affordable Homes programme. This scheme is extended to 2018 at £957m each year, plus £400m over 2 years for an Affordable Rent-to-Buy scheme, providing 165,000 homes overall. Housing Associations will be allowed to raise social rents each year by 1% more than the Consumer Price Index up to 2025. Housing Minister Mark Prisk also announced his intention that housing providers should convert their re-lets to Affordable Rent status at higher rents, or offer the homes for sale.

*RIBA Practice Bulletin, 4.7.13*

### The Chocolate Museum

One of Brixton's newer attractions is the Chocolate Museum at 187 Ferndale Road – approaching from Brixton Road, that's just beyond the Bon Marche building, on the left-hand side of the road.

Open to the public Wednesday to Friday 12 noon to 7 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 6-30. Workshop sessions can also be booked, including chocolate-making on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. Weekday mornings are set aside for school visits.

Basic information is on their website at:

[www.thechocolatemuseum.co.uk](http://www.thechocolatemuseum.co.uk)

Enquiries to 07 723 434 235 or

[info@thechocolatemuseum.co.uk](mailto:info@thechocolatemuseum.co.uk)

## Lambeth's First Heritage Festival

Lambeth will be holding its first ever Heritage Festival during the month of September. Lambeth Archives and the Lambeth Local History Forum have worked together to develop a rich programme of events and activities that try to pick up on all aspects of local history in the borough, both geographically (with events spread across the whole of Lambeth from West Norwood to Waterloo and from Clapham to Camberwell) and in terms of subject matter with walks, talks and other events covering a broad spread of subjects including house history, local mural artists, women's history, Black history and national figures like William Blake as well as incorporating regular heritage events such as London Open House weekend and the Lambeth Archives Open Day.

Local events during September in the Brixton area include

- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept: "300 Years of Black History" a walk led by Steve Martin that starts at Brixton Library and finishes at Minet Library.
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>: The Brixton Society is devoting an evening to a couple of talks to share our knowledge and point to sources you can use for your own research.
- There are also a few House History workshops at different libraries, to help anyone interested in finding out more about the house or block they live in.
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>: Lambeth Archives' annual open day will take as its theme 1913, the year before the world was changed out of all recognition by the First World War. There will be speakers on the Suffragettes, Edwardian architecture and a talk by Jeffrey Green, the author of "The Black Edwardians"

Full programme details and a downloadable brochure will be found at [www.lambeth.gov.uk/heritagefestival2013](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/heritagefestival2013) and

[www.lambeth.gov.uk/archivesopenday](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/archivesopenday)

*Printed copies may be available in time to pick up from the Libraries tent at the Lambeth Country Show.*

## A Tale of Two Commons

The two features of Brixton's past that everyone seems to have heard of are the River Effra (see facing page) and Rush Common – the latter mainly because of building restrictions left over from the original Lambeth Inclosure Act of 1806.

However, Brixton included another patch of common land, Stockwell Common, along the western side of Brixton Road. This was part of the Manor of Stockwell, formed when the ancient manor of South Lambeth was split in two by King Edward I in 1294, the other part becoming Vauxhall Manor. Initially Stockwell Manor included all the land bounded by Brixton Road and Brixton Hill up to Brixi's Stone, then northwards along Lyham Road and Bedford Road to Clapham Road, then along this old Roman road to meet Kennington Common at the present Oval Tube Station. There was also a Stockwell Wood on the south-west boundary, which later became Bleak Hall Farm and finally the core of the Clapham Park Estate.

Stockwell Common itself stretched north along the west side of Brixton Road from the corner of Acre Lane as far as Stockwell Park Walk, then up to the corner of the skateboard park, and south again to join Acre Lane about 2 shops west of MacDonald's. In the 1580s, Viscount Montagu granted long leases on parts of the manor, and later owners sold off more of it, so that by 1773 it was about half its original area. The rump of the estate, mostly south of the present Ferndale Road, was auctioned off in 14 lots in 1802, when Stockwell Green and the common were bought by William Lambert, who became nominal Lord of the Manor.

Perhaps encouraged by the enclosure of the adjacent Rush Common (completed in 1810), Lambert had Stockwell Common enclosed in 1813. There were no special provisions, other than retaining some footpaths across the common which



## Local History Focus

survive as modern routes, notably Stockwell Park Walk, Stockwell Avenue and Tunstall Road (opposite the modern Underground terminus). Rocque's London map of 1745-60 shows that Stockwell Road already existed as a Turnpike Road, together with the eastern stub of Ferndale Road (originally Shepherd's Lane).



*Brixton's present town centre in 1841, with most of Stockwell Common still undeveloped.*

Development was slow, and mainly residential, until new railway lines crossed Brixton in the 1860s. Nursery Road derives from a tree nursery that was replaced by the innovative Bon Marche department store in 1877. Morley's department store stands on former common land directly in front of the original Brixton Academy of the 1820s. The present Brixton Academy began as the Astoria Cinema, centre-piece of major rebuilding at the northern end between the two world wars. The last traces of the original common are a few trees around the junction of Stockwell Avenue and Stockwell Road, and a tiny patch of grass outside the gates of Goodwood Mansions.

### Who moved the River Effra?

Old maps show the River Effra flowing north alongside Brixton Road, but at the Kennington end it then turns sharp left through what is now St. Mark's churchyard to flow south of the Oval cricket ground and join the Thames close to the present Vauxhall Bridge.

A recent article by Graham Dawson in the newsletter of the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society suggests that this

was not always the case. Research in legal records from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries suggests that the Effra used to continue northwards through Walworth and then Bermondsey, to join the Thames at the Earl's Sluice, on the traditional boundary between Rotherhithe and Deptford.

It seems that the old course ran through the middle of Bermondsey Priory, and to end flooding problems, in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century the monks agreed with nearby landowners to divert the flow. The priory built a bridge and dug a new ditch to connect with existing channels on the boundaries of Kennington, Vauxhall and Battersea.

As a result of the diversion, Walworth Marsh eventually dried out to become Walworth Common. However, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were still watercourses from the eastern fringes of Brixton draining northwards to join the Neckinger, such as a sinuous ditch along the western edge of Milk Wood which eventually formed the boundary between houses in the northern arm of Shakespeare Road and the east side of Loughborough Park.

### More Brixton Colleges

In the last issue, I reported an enquiry about a Brixton College active in the 1890s, and a couple more candidates have since come to light.

Kelly's Brixton & Clapham Directory of 1898-99 lists a **Brixton College of Music** at 76 Brixton Hill, still then known as the Manor House due to being the home of the Lambert family earlier in the century. Clark's College does not appear at this address until the 1904-05 edition of the directory, so seems too late to be a contender.

Going back to the 1889-90 edition, we found a **Brixton College for Boys** at 249 Brixton Road, with Joseph Tongue BA as principal. This is a large semi-detached house of c.1875 which still survives, as flats. This is the most likely site.

Finally there was a **Brixton Grammar School** at 3 Brixton Oval in 1889-90, with Thomas Royle Quick LL.D as principal. This was displaced by building of the Tate Library in 1893, but re-appears at 20 Effra Road in the 1904-05 directory.

*Alan Piper.*

### WHO WERE THEY?



The Season's Greetings  
From the Family at  
17 Dover Mansions, Brixton, S.W.  
XMAS, 1903.

The above postcard shows a prosperous looking but, perhaps, somewhat odd "family". The back of the card gives no further clues.

Research has revealed the following answers. The man is William Gandy, born in 1865 in East Stratton, Hampshire, the son of Edward Gandy, the Head Gardener at Stratton Park. At this time, Stratton Park was in the ownership of the Baring banking family. Barings Bank was famously brought down in 1995 due to unauthorized trading by its head derivatives trader in Singapore, Nick Leeson, (who went to the same grammar school as me - small world isn't it?).

William married the woman in the picture, Ethel Mary Inglefield, in 1899 and they went to live with her parents at 63 Kennington Road. In 1903 they moved into the flat at 17 Dover Mansions, Canterbury Crescent, where they remained for the rest of their married lives. They had no children.

Just to confuse matters, William exercised his profession under the name "Sidney Gandy"

and he appears under that name in both the Kelly's Directories and the Electoral Rolls for this period; and what was his profession?



The above advertisement appeared in the Primrose League Gazette of April 1909. Although not mentioned in the Gazette, he worked with his wife who appeared under her maiden name as Miss Ethel Inglefield. One thing they did together was a mind reading, or "thought transmission" as they called it, act.

The Primrose League was a high Tory organisation and his choosing to place an advertisement (I bet he called it a "notice") in their Gazette gives a clue to his personality. Another is the way in which he completed his entry in the 1911 census. This shows him living at Dover Mansions with Ethel and her maiden aunt, Mary Inglefield. He gives his occupation as "Ventriloquial Entertainer"; under "Industry" he says, "Entertaining the British public"; and under "Nationality" he writes over the three lines of their entries, "British Subjects all".

The final clue to the personality of this son of a gardener is that he took up hunting, which proved his undoing. In 1912 he fell while hunting, caught his foot in a stirrup and was dragged to his death at just 47 years of age. He left £208.4s.5d. in his will to his widow.

#### Lambeth Heritage Festival

If you are interested in how such stories are researched, do come to our open meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013 starting at 7:00pm in the Vida Walsh Centre, Saltoun Road. As part of the Lambeth Heritage Festival, we are holding an evening of two short, illustrated talks, with a local history display to view in the interval, with light refreshments, called: "Playing Detective – some investigations in local history".

By the way, the dummy was called Ebenezer Twiddlepump but we have not found out the name of the cat.

Bill Linskey

# Community Links & Networks



## **Annual Report , July 2013**

*An edited version of the report prepared for the Forum's recent AGM.*

### **AIMS & INTERESTS**

The Brixton Neighbourhood Forum is an association of community groups and individuals, formed to promote social, economic and environmental well-being for Brixton residents and to promote local business.

### **AREA OF BENEFIT**

The Forum aims to cover the wider Brixton area, not just the Town Centre defined by Lambeth Council. The boundaries were adjusted early on to allow for nearby forums with known interest in neighbourhood plans or economic development.

### **STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT**

Following an initial meeting of Brixton community groups on 22 June 2011, the Forum's constitution was adopted on 24 August. With the aim of holding 4 open meetings a year, 8 meetings have since been held.

Officers elected initially were:

Chair: Devon Thomas

Vice-Chair: Stuart Horwood

Treasurer: Nicholas Weedon

Secretary: Alan Piper

Membership Sec: John Spicer

The officers meet occasionally between the main meetings in order to settle arrangements. The present officers consider that this group should be enlarged to share the work of developing the Forum.

### **PARTICIPATION**

Our aspiration has always been to bring together the various local groups and interests. 28 different groups have been represented at meetings to date.

To be recognised under the Localism Act, the Forum must have a minimum of 21 individual members. There were 32

individuals enrolled at 3<sup>rd</sup> July, with a total mailing list of 84.

The Forum has aimed for its meetings to be open and accessible, but we have found the suitability of most local meeting places to be poor, and one of our aspirations is to improve this.

### **REGENERATION & PLANNING**

The Forum has taken a close interest in the Supplementary Planning Document for Brixton Town Centre, and also the recent review of the Lambeth Borough Plan. Progress is being made with a Brixton Business Improvement District (BID).

The Forum is constituted so it can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan if the Council's own plans for the area are failing to meet the community's needs. This topic has featured at several meetings, with inputs from the Prince's Trust, Lambeth Planning, Urban Design London and the London Forum. Members of other forums have joined us for most of these discussions.

### **SHARING INFORMATION**

Meeting notices and minutes have mainly been circulated by e-mail to minimise costs. Occasional e-mail bulletins are also circulated to those on our contact list. The Forum has a basic website with an archive of past meetings, and further enhancement is intended.

### **FINANCE & RESOURCES**

Expenses and income were small while the Forum was becoming established, and the Forum has only recently completed its first financial year involving significant sums of money, thanks to funding from the Lambeth Forum Network.

### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

We have an opportunity through LFN to channel resources to grassroots groups, such as Friends groups for libraries and parks.

We will need to consider if gaps in the Council's own plans for Brixton would justify our preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. We will certainly share news and review any problems that arise.

*Alan Piper, Secretary.*

[APiperBrix@aol.com](mailto:APiperBrix@aol.com)

[www.brixtonforum.org](http://www.brixtonforum.org)

## Community Links & Networks

### Sustainability

The next meeting of Lambeth's Sustainability Forum will focus on parks and open spaces. It will be held on **Wednesday 24 July** from 7 pm to 9 pm, but the venue was still being arranged as we went to press – contact [a.m.a.birley@gmail.com](mailto:a.m.a.birley@gmail.com) for final details.

### Transition Town Brixton

relinquished their base in Robsart Street last month, leaving the **Remakery** in Paulet Road as the local focus for Sustainability activities – but look out for relevant stalls during the Lambeth Country Show.

### Remembering Tulse Hill

Discussions are underway about forming a group to investigate aspects of the history of the Tulse Hill area. Whether this will feature reminiscences or going back further in time is yet to be decided, but if you are interested, contact Mary Atkins, Secretary of the Tulse Hill Forum: [matkins1056@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:matkins1056@yahoo.co.uk)

### Healthwatch

Healthwatch Lambeth is the independent local consumer champion, set up to promote better outcomes in health and social care. They are now seeking Trustees for their new board, drawn from local voluntary organisations and from individuals living, working or using facilities in Lambeth. Deadline for nominations is **31 July**.

Further information from Healthwatch Lambeth on (020) 7274 8522 or e-mail: [info@healthwatchlambeth.org.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchlambeth.org.uk)

An election pack, including details of the role and how to nominate yourself or someone else, is available from [customerservices@electoralreform.co.uk](mailto:customerservices@electoralreform.co.uk) or phone ERS on (020) 8889 9203.

### Ways to Wellbeing

Lambeth's wellbeing bulletin continues to appear monthly with a round-up of news and links for both mental and physical health. For the latest online, check out: <http://lambethwellbeing.wordpress.com/>

Umm Faruq (Melva Ferguson) is a Tooting resident and mental health professional who used nutrition to aid her own recovery from severe mental illness. **Genuine Recovery, a Survivor Perspective** by Umm Faruq is available from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) at £16.50, ISBN# 978-0-9576774-1-8

### Sing Sisters

A community women's singing group meets weekly in Brixton, run by Katie J White. All women welcome, no matter who you are or what singing level you are. Every Tuesday, 5-45 pm to 7 pm at The Brix, St. Matthew's Church, Brixton Hill SW2 – see <https://www.facebook.com/singsisters> or e-mail to: [katiejwhitemusic@gmail.com](mailto:katiejwhitemusic@gmail.com)

### London Forum alerts

London-wide issues or proposals from the Government or Mayor are flagged up on the London Forum website, <http://londonforum.org.uk/updates.php>

### Community Hub

The Brix Hub offers shared office space within the Brix building in the centre of Brixton, thanks to Lambeth Council funding for adapting space to provide 6 offices for 2/3 persons each, plus another 12 "hot desks" for occasional use. The hub will be open 8-30 am to 8-30 pm, Mondays to Fridays. The facilities are shown on the Brix's website at [www.thebrix.org/community-hub.html](http://www.thebrix.org/community-hub.html) or you can arrange to inspect the space with Mark Morrison, building & facilities manager on (020) 7738 6604 or e-mail to [enquiries@thebrix.org](mailto:enquiries@thebrix.org)

### Brixton Inclusive

This is a Lambeth-based multidisciplinary arts organisation for 5-25 year-olds, set up in 2004. They run weekly Saturday workshops in hip-hop, dance, music, storytelling, improvisation and performance-related projects. Sessions run in parallel at Lambeth Accord, 336 Brixton Road, for 5-11 and 12-25 age ranges. More on their website: [www.brixtoninclusive.org](http://www.brixtoninclusive.org) or contact Amani Naphtali on (020) 7274 7133 or e-mail [info@brixtoninclusive.org](mailto:info@brixtoninclusive.org)