

THE BRIXTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer issue, July 2014

No.214, Quarterly issue,
Distributed free to members.

Registered with the London Forum of Amenity
Societies, Registered Charity No.1058103,
Website: www.brixtonsociety.org.uk

Our next appearance:
Weekend 19 & 20 July
Lambeth Country Show

Brockwell Park, SE24

Look out for our stall in the usual area, halfway
between the Herne Hill gate and Brockwell
Hall, to the right of the path.

If you can spare some time to help on our stall
at this event (or others below), please call
Bill Linskey on (020) 7274 3835 or by e-mail to
wjdc1@globalnet.co.uk

Thursday 11th September:

Local History Meeting

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

We highlight some local connections to the
centenary of the First World War, and the
involvement of people from all corners of what
was then the British Empire. (See also p.4)

Saturday 27th September:

Lambeth Archives

Open Day

10 am to 5 pm at the Minet Library, also
with talks in the Michael Church and local
society displays in Longfield Hall, all in
Knatchbull Road, SE5.



*The Friends of Tate Library have organised
monthly craft workshops in the library, with
support from the Coldharbour Community First
fund. This was jewellery making in May – you
can make your own heritage blue plaque in
September! (jewelry-3-lib.jpg, Marilyn Rogers)*

Our next Summer Walk...
Sunday 10th August
Stockwell Greenspaces

Meet 2-30 pm by the Stockwell War Memorial
clock tower, opposite Stockwell Station, SW9
(Northern & Victoria lines) for a circular walk
led by Alan Piper
Bus routes 2, 88, 155, 196, 345 pass nearby.

If you mislaid (or missed) the full list of guided
walks, collect another from us at the Lambeth
Country Show this month!
And if you missed the AGM last month, the
annual report and accounts are in this issue.

September focus on Brixton

Local events on **Friday 12 September** form
part of the **London Cycling Show**. Windrush
Square hosts the Commuter Cycle Show from
4 pm to 6-30 pm, followed by a Cycling Film
and discussion night at the nearby Ritzy
Picture House.

See www.londoncyclingshow.co.uk

This will be followed by a week of local events
as part of the **London Design Festival**, from
13 to 21 September, to launch the new
Brixton Design District – read more on p.8.

Diary for late Summer 2014

Society Meetings

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

- 14 August
- 9 October
- 13 November

Market Walks

Our guided walks round the market area continue on the second **Saturday** of every 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. Walks start from there at **2-30 pm** and take about 90 minutes.

Links with Other Groups

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

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 July – Urban Art Fair

This long-established event now takes place on the weekend before the Lambeth Country Show, in Josephine Avenue between Brixton Hill and Brixton Water Lane, 10 am to 6 pm. www.urbanart.co.uk

Saturdays 12 & 26 July – Waste knot, want knot

A bi-weekly community market, on alternate

Saturdays, intended as a hub for social enterprise, 11 am to 4 pm at St.Martin's Estate Scout Hut, High Trees, SW2
Tulse Hill Community Mkt.

Sunday 13 July – Herne Hill Heritage Trail

Meet at 2 pm outside Herne Hill Station, Railton Road, for a walk round the south half of the route, led by Ian McInnes.
Herne Hill Society.

Thursday 17 July – AGM of Loughborough Junction Action Group

6-30 pm at Sunshine International Arts, 209a Coldharbour Lane, SW9. Enquiries to: ljactiongroup@gmail.com

Thursday 17 July – Crystal Palace Aviation

John King presents research on early aviation events at the Crystal Palace, 8 pm at the Phoenix Centre, Westow Hill (by Sainsbury's), SE19
South London Local History Group.

Thursdays 24 July & 21 August – Open Evening

6 pm to 8pm at 323 Norwood Road, SE24, to see a densely-planted botanical garden with pond, herbarium and botanical library, refreshments on sale; 020 8674 5787.
South London Botanical Institute

Sunday 17 August – Clapham Plaques Walk

Meet for 3 pm start outside Clapham Common

Underground Station for a walk led by Derrick Johnson taking in various memorial plaques around Clapham's Old Town.
Clapham Society

Sunday 14 September – East Brixton Walk

Meet at 2-30 pm outside Loughborough Junction Station (Thameslink) for a walk led by Alan Piper.
Brixton Society & Lambethans Society

Thursday 18th Sept. – Norwood's Memorials

Following the WW1 theme of the Lambeth Heritage Festival, Jerry Green shows local war memorials and describes some of the people commemorated on them.

7-30 pm at Upper Norwood Library, Westow Hill, SE19.
Norwood Society

Thursday 26 Sept. – Brain of Lambeth

7-30 pm for 7-45 start, at Lambeth Town Hall, SW2. A general knowledge quiz for teams of 4 – 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
Lambethans Society

Sunday 12 October – Brockwell Park Walk

Starts at 2 pm from the clock tower, with a nature theme.

Friends of Brockwell Park

Current Consultations

This newsletter appears in the midst of another round of consultation events on various Lambeth Council proposals, so we regret that some will have passed by the time this reaches most of our members. Here are the main points:

Brixton Central Masterplan

Emerging plans for the former ice rink and railway viaducts are to be displayed at “pop-up” stalls on:

Saturday 12 July, 10 am to 4 pm in Brixton Station Road;

Tuesday 15 July, 11 am to 5 pm on Windrush Square;

Wednesday 16 July, 11 am to 5 pm in Brixton Village arcade;

And on Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 July, 1 pm to 4 pm, drop-in exhibition at Brixton Station (rail or underground not stated).

Enquiries to Tomasz@fluidoffice.com

Your New Town Hall

Let's remind you that, in addition to the core Town Hall site, the package takes in Olive Morris House, 1-7 Town Hall Parade and Hambrook House on Brixton Hill, Iver House at 1-9 Acre Lane, and Wanless Road depot near Loughborough Junction. About 275 new flats are expected though at best 40% may be “affordable”. Two public exhibition days are:

Wednesday 16 July at The Brix, St. Matthew's Brixton Hill, 10 am to 3 pm;

Thursday 17 July at the Karibu Centre, Gresham Road SW9, 4 pm to 8 pm.

Enquiries to yournewtownhall@lambeth.gov.uk

Public Realm Strategy

Proposals were released on 25 June, for the Town Centre and routes into it. They are based on consultations in Autumn 2013 but the deadline for comments is imminent – to GWright@lambeth.gov.uk by 14 July.

Future Brixton overview

Look out for the Future Brixton exhibit at the Lambeth Country Show for an overview of the current proposals around Brixton. On-line feedback forms can also be found at www.lambeth.gov.uk/consultations.

Don't forget to share any concerns with us too – with several projects rolling forward at the same time, we may have missed something!

Community Infrastructure

Our last issue reported on grouping Council wards in order to distribute income from the new Community Infrastructure Levy which will be charged on developments from next April. Proposals are due to go to Lambeth's Cabinet meeting on 14 July, and it seems Brixton faces a fragmented future. We had accepted that Vassall ward might be better off with Larkhall and Stockwell, but the surprise is that Ferndale (covering the town centre west of Brixton Road and north of Acre Lane) has been lumped in with 3 Clapham wards. Herne Hill is to be grouped with Coldharbour, Tulse Hill and Brixton Hill as we suggested.

Lambeth Local Plan

The formal process of examination by a Planning Inspector is now underway, with hearings taking place in the John Major Room at the Kia Oval between 8th and 17th July.

Enquiries about the timing and agendas for sessions to the programme officer, Pauline Butcher, at ldfprogrammeofficer@tiscali.co.uk

Business Revival

Too much “Regeneration” turns out to be just an excuse to pack in more private housing, at the expense of local workspace. To really revive the economy, we need to provide space for new creative enterprises, plus local spaces that they can grow into if they become successful. Brixton's Business Improvement District is now starting to make its presence felt, and Lambeth has a new Cabinet member for Jobs and Growth, Cllr. Jack Hopkins (though who covers the rest of Planning is still unclear). *Continued on p.8*

Caribbean Connections

It's easy to assume that Brixton's Afro-Caribbean connections began with the arrival of West Indian migrants on the SS Empire Windrush in 1948, but we come across many black individuals in the Brixton area in earlier historical records. We owe a recent discovery to Dr Mandy Banton of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. The Institute and the British Association of Local History ran a joint event in February on the involvement of troops and workers from what was then the British Empire in the War effort, and their interaction with local communities in the Mother Country.

Dr Banton's paper focussed on records from the old Colonial Office, mostly concerned with the West Indies and now held at the National Archives. She presented many case studies of recruiting, training and transporting people from the West Indies, and returning them at the war's end. The example that caught our eye was from a nominal roll of recruits to the British West Indies Regiment, which also listed next of kin. Since most recruits were young unmarried men, it's not surprising that Reginald Jack Redford, enrolled in Jamaica, provided his mother's name and address.

However that address was **133a Coldharbour Lane**, almost opposite Lilford Road SE5. The house still stands – it was barely 10 years old when the war broke out, and designed as 3 flats. We would be intrigued to know more, but following up locally is difficult because Mrs Redford (like women generally) would not be on the electoral roll a century ago.

Black Cultural Archives is back!

This seems a good point to report that BCA finally re-opens on Windrush Square this month. The official opening celebration on **Thursday 24 July**, 6 pm to 9 pm, features cultural performances from poetry through jazz to hip-hop, plus speeches.

After this, the centre will be open on Tuesdays to Sundays from 10 am to 6pm. As with any archive, we suggest prior enquiries to help find material you are seeking. For more details see www.bcaheritage.org.uk



A recent photo of 133a Coldharbour Lane, the right-hand porch of the pair (BX-E-Jn14-03.jpg)

Lambeth Heritage Festival

The centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, and its impact locally, is perhaps inevitably the main theme for the Heritage Festival that runs through the month of September, culminating in the annual Open Day at Lambeth Archives. Libraries will have a booklet listing events around the borough, or see www.lambeth.gov.uk/heritagefestival

In the meantime, a **Memorial Recital** is being held in Brockwell Park on **Sunday 27 July at 7-30 pm**. This is the centenary of the last day before fighting broke out, and the evening will feature music, text and poems, co-ordinated by Caroline Funnell of local theatre company Sixteenfeet Productions. Admission is free but with a collection in aid of park activities.
Brockwell Park Community Partners

Naomi Klein, Chair of the **Friends of Stockwell War Memorial**, has almost completed an updated e-book version of **These were our sons**, with new information about men named on the memorial – enquiries to: stockwellmemorialfriends@gmail.com

Local History & Heritage

Recent Enquiries

I am sharing details of some enquiries from the pending tray, in case members can suggest any leads before I try to reply.

Alan Piper (contact details on page 8).

Manor House Road, late Herbert Road

Ted Hayward of Amersham is seeking any ground-level pictures of Manor House Road, where he lived from just before until a few years after World War 2, at No.20a (marked MHR on the aerial view on the right). This street name was fairly short-lived – it appears as Herbert Road on the large-scale 1913 OS map. The road ran between Stockwell Road and Aytoun Road, but after wartime bombing created several gaps, it was replaced by the present Waltham Estate in the early 1950s.

Responses to ted.hayward@btinternet.com

Vassall Villas

Lynnette Hammet e-mailed from Australia to locate Vassall Villas, home of an ancestor at the 1841 Census. First thoughts were that it should be in or near Vassall Road, in the area then known as North Brixton, but there has been much change to road names and numbering since then. Any news to lynnhammet@gmail.com

Longfield Hall

The Friends of Longfield Hall are gathering information on the variety of groups and people who have used the hall over the years, as background research for future funding bids. Whether it's from a century ago or the 1980s, all details are welcome, because the available records are very sparse. Please send to us or direct to lindsayavebury@hotmail.com

Brixton Chess Club

The Club started in the early 1870s as the Endeavour Chess Club, with matches variously at St. Andrew's Church, Stockwell (1874), 138 Brixton Road (1875), St. John's Institute, 18 Foxley Road (1884) Christchurch Young Men's Society, 43 Vassall Road (1885), Brixton Liberal Club, 322 Brixton Road (1887), the Bon Marche Restaurant (1892) and the Brixton Conservatoire of Music at 504 Brixton Road (1894). By the early 1880s it was simply

Brixton Chess Club, but after World War 2 it merged with Streatham to form the present Streatham & Brixton Chess Club. Martin Smith has been researching their history and would welcome any additional information, at msmith.ms@btinternet.com or on (020) 8767 2355.



Manor House Road in August 1945, with Aytoun Road to the left and the Stockwell Green triangle to the right (south is at the top!)

Training Guides for Windmill

The Friends of Windmill Gardens are keen to build up the pool of volunteer guides who can show visitors around Brixton's windmill. The next training session will be on **Thursday 7 August** from 6-30 to 8-30 pm. Enquiries to info@brixtonwindmill.org.uk

3 Churches at Risk

Two old Brixton Churches are competing for survival, now that their parishes have been merged and can only afford to sustain one site. **St. Andrew's** in Stockwell Green is the oldest (1767) but with Hammerton Hall alongside, is probably the most attractive to a developer. **St. Michael's** in Stockwell Park is a leaner gothic building provided by the original estate developer in 1841.

There are also concerns about Brixton's last surviving "tin chapel", the Bible Truth Church of God in Hetherington Road, which is proposed for replacement by a block of flats with a modern church space below.

The Brixton Society - Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2014

	2013/2014	2012/2013
Opening Balance	2,861.01	3,551.68
Grant/Awards	0.00	0.00
Members' Subscriptions	1,208.60	1,239.30
Sale of Publications, etc	1,821.85	2,073.07
Donations	281.60	423.24
Postage	127.30	122.73
Bank Interest	1.81	0.45
Miscellaneous	4.50	32.00
Sub-Total	3,445.66	3,890.79
Refunds	-7.20	-234.61
Discounts	-117.89	-156.89
Ebay/Paypal fees	-69.48	0.00
Receipts less discounts/refunds	3,251.09	3,499.29
Opening Bal+Rec	6,112.10	7,050.97

Payment

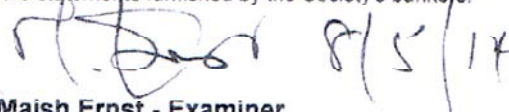
Friends of Tate Library	69.69	0.00
Newsletter Prod	351.00	399.60
Postage	346.85	285.92
Stationery	26.37	33.03
Publications - purchase	25.00	95.64
Publications - printing	50.00	0.00
Posters/Leaflets/Banner	22.61	80.00
Insurance Cost	65.00	65.00
Subscriptions	126.00	98.00
Cost of Meetings	332.50	350.00
Miscellaneous	154.09	154.99
Equipment/Stall	31.00	48.98
Open Square Weekend	0.00	1,631.10
Catering/Refreshments	241.21	185.66
Website hosting	344.73	551.47
Friends of Windrush Square	35.00	0.00
Refund (misc)	0.66	210.57
Total Payment	2,221.71	4,189.96
Balance	3,890.39	2,861.01
Closing Balance	3,890.39	2,861.01

Details of Publications Sold

Town Trails	85.50	117.00
Memories	54.89	64.87
Windrush Square	20.00	29.00
Unearthed	0.00	0.00
Brixton - Story of a name	13.00	14.00
Effra - Lambeth's Underground River	127.50	67.50
Home Secrets	0.00	0.00
Maps	42.50	57.40
Brixton Abridged	10.10	8.60
Postcards	436.00	341.50
History of Brixton	519.48	619.38
Brixton Market LT poster	50.00	52.00
Brixton Boy WWII	67.55	29.88
Black British Celebration	72.00	76.00
Lambeth Edwardian	10.00	63.00
Synagogue	42.33	14.94
Market Walk Tickets	75.00	123.00
Market Walk Books	184.00	338.00
Brixton & Stockwell in The Mirror	12.00	12.00
Lambeth Architecture	0.00	45.00
	1,821.85	2,073.07
Less Discount	-117.89	-156.89
Total	1,715.96	1,973.18

Statement by External Examiner

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 in accordance with the statements furnished by the Society's bankers.

 8/5/14

Maish Ernst - Examiner

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

Annual Report 2014

AIMS & ORGANISATION

STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT: The Society is a registered charity and an unincorporated association. The society's constitution was last revised at the 2013 AGM, to better reflect current practice.

The Executive Committee has met 9 times since the last AGM, consisting of Bill Linskey (Chair), Annick Alet, Doye Akinlade, John Cunningham, Barbara Davies, Rosemary Honey, Diana Linskey, Alan Piper, Marilyn Rogers, Eileen Walkin, David Warner, Nicholas Weedon, Norma Williamson, and Vivienne Lewis (co-opted).

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 planning policy rather than individual cases, so we have commented on aspects of the Lambeth Local Plan, Community Infrastructure Levy and proposals for key sites in Brixton Town Centre.

We supported Brixton's Townscape Heritage Initiative bid. We have been more closely involved with the London Forum of Amenity Societies over the past 2 years, to keep in touch with London-wide and national policies.

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, and Lambeth Parks Forum. We support the Friends of Tate Library and the Friends of Windrush Square, which operate as sub-committees of the Society.

EVENTS: Since the 2013 AGM, we have put on displays or stalls at the Lambeth Country Show and Lambeth Archives Open Day, and during June at the Brixton Windmill Festival and in Windrush Square as part of London's Open Garden Squares weekend. 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. For Lambeth's Heritage Festival last September, we put on a successful local history evening, and another is planned for this autumn.

PUBLICATIONS: The website continues to develop, becoming a vital channel for wider sales of our publications. More are being developed, but always contingent on funding and members' spare time for research. We distribute some 300 copies of our Newsletter quarterly, to key groups and local councillors in addition to our own members

RESOURCES

MEMBERSHIP: Since April 2013, 41 new members joined, bringing total paid up members to 208. Over two thirds of our 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: The annual accounts cover the year ended 31 March 2014, and balances increased over the year. Subscriptions were last revised at the 2010 AGM.

Notes & News

Business Revival

Continued from page 3

The Brixton BID is based at 30 Acre Lane, in part of the old Leichner factory for stage cosmetics. Space will be available there soon for hire for meetings and events. Enquiries to info@brixtonbid.co.uk or call (020) 7501 5622.



Brixton Design District & Festival

We Love Brixton is launching the new Brixton Design District as part of the London Design Festival, which runs from 13 to 21 September, as a week of design-led events and activities.

Local Designers, Makers and Innovators are being invited to join in, as well as local venues that can host these events. Design-led events are being curated around the theme "Change Brixton by Design". For more details please contact: info@welovebrixton.co.uk

See also: www.londondesignfestival.com

50 years of supporting new parents

Back in 1964 London's first One O'Clock Club opened in Brockwell Park, and is still going. This was started by the old London County Council as a place where mothers could bring their babies or toddlers for play, and benefit from mutual support from other mums as well as from the centre staff. The concept was gradually extended across London, and Lambeth still has several sites, generally now described as "stay and play"

New Play Streets

Another old idea recently revived is the Play Street, to offer children more scope for outdoor play close to home. The new version is limited to banning vehicle traffic one afternoon a week, as follows:

Hayter Road SW2: between Bonham & Branksome Roads, Tuesdays 3 to 6 pm.

Leander Road SW2: between No.51 and Josephine Avenue, on Saturdays 3 to 6 pm.

Ratray Road SW2: between Jelf and Mervan Roads, Sundays 3 to 6 pm.

Romola Road SE24: between No.40 and Deronda Road, Fridays 4 to 7 pm.

Sudbourne Road SW2: between Branksome and

Beverstone Roads, Sundays between 2 and 5 pm.

We would be interested to see photos or stories of street play from the 1950s onwards. For similar schemes see www.londonplay.org.uk

Discover Your Ancestors

This magazine title now has a monthly digital edition, full of family histories, case studies, UK and overseas features and hints on identifying hard-to-find forbears. This is being offered to Society members on 3 months free trial – and if you subscribe at £12 for a full year, they will make a donation to our Society funds.

To register, e-mail to subs@discoveryourancestors.co.uk with the subject line DYAFHS Brixton 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, 82 Mayall Road, SE24 0PJ, or by e-mail to APiperBrix@aol.com
Phone/ fax (020) 7207 0347