

THE BRIXTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Autumn, October 2013

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Your new Town Hall?

On three occasions this year we displayed information about the design of Lambeth's Town Hall, which dates from 1906-08. This building was the result of a competition which attracted 243 entries, and the best half-dozen were published in a brochure, still held by Lambeth Archives. While the final choice was being made, the site was put to temporary use for 8 weeks for a prefab assembly hall for church services conducted by a couple of American evangelists. This was dismantled and the new building proceeded rapidly, ready for opening by the then Prince of Wales on 29 April 1908.

Fast forward to 2013 and it's interesting to see how processes and priorities have changed. This time the competition is between just 3 developers, each with a team of architects and other advisers in tow, though we don't know if any others have fallen by the wayside. The requirements are more complex, involving several sites in addition to remodelling the Town Hall itself. These include nearby offices – 1-7 Town Hall Parade, Hambrook House, Iver House (the old Co-op store in Acre Lane) and Olive Morris House on Brixton Hill. Further afield, International House (behind the Recreation Centre) and the small Wanless Road depot near Loughborough Junction, are being offered to the winning developer for residential use. After moving key departments



Aerial view of Kajima proposal for Town Hall – more designs are shown on page 3 inside...

to Phoenix House at Vauxhall only a couple of years ago, the new priority is to gather Council staff in more efficient offices in and around the Town Hall. In order to offset the building cost, the winning developer will be allowed to use the peripheral sites for substantial blocks of flats. Originally labelled the "SW2 Enterprise Centre" with a view to offering space to local firms and charities, it is now being promoted as a "Town Hall for All". Following a limited consultation event in July, when we were all sworn to secrecy, the competing proposals have now been published prior to a final choice in November and a likely start in July 2015, for completion in phases between late 2016 and mid-2019.

The developers have been working to a common brief but there are clear differences in emphasis.

Kajima have the most acceptable proposals for council offices between Porden Road and The Electric, but their flats to replace Hambrook House are only shown as a vague grey block, with nothing said about Olive Morris House further up Brixton Hill.

United House limited their drawings to a few distant aerial views and some rough sketches, but enough to convey a forbidding and bulky office block replacing 1-7 Town Hall Parade. Their proposals for the Hambrook House site are not quite as bad as the other two but all suffer from cramming too much on this site.

Muse, part of the Morgan Sindall Group, at least showed proposals for all the key sites. However, apart from distant Wanless Road, they are all built-up too high, even adding an extra attic floor to Iver House in Acre Lane. All proposals include changes inside the Town Hall, but little difference to the exterior.

Diary of Events, Late Autumn 2013

Society Meetings

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

- **14 November**
- **9 January**

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.

- **12 October**
- **9 November**
- **14 December**

Links with Other Groups

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

Weds 16 to Saturday 26 October – British Black Panthers Exhibition

10 am to 5-30 pm at the Photofusion Gallery, 17a Electric Lane, SW9 – current portraits and archive photos of black activists of the late 1960s/ early 1970s, the result of a project by local young people – see

www.organisedyouth.tumblr.com

Part of Lambeth's Black History Month

Saturday 19 October Big Draw in the Park

Chalk drawing for all ages round the bandstand in Myatt's Fields Park, 1 pm to 4 pm (plus music from Jammin', courtesy of HLF) www.myattsfieldspark.info
Myatt's Fields Park Project

Saturday 19 October Home Movie Day

Bring in your dad's old films for expert advice on storage, preservation or transfer to digital formats. 11 am - 5 pm at the Cinema Museum, 2 Dugard Way, off Renfrew Road, Kennington SE11
The Cinema Museum

Sunday 20 October – Autumn Walk

Meet at **2 pm** at the clock tower in the centre of Brockwell Park. Station (Northern Line).
Friends of Brockwell Park

Tuesday 12 November – 60 years Archaeology in Wandsworth

A talk by Pamela Greenwood of the Wandsworth Historical Society; refreshments from 7 pm for 7-30 start, Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, (opposite the Old Vic) SE1.
Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society

Wednesday 13 Nov. – The Horniman Museum

An illustrated talk by Finbar Whooley, Assistant Director,

on the history of the museum and its collections: 7-30 pm for 7-45 start, Herne Hill United Church Hall, c/o Redpost Hill and Herne Hill, SE24.
Herne Hill Society

Saturday 16 November Camberwell House Asylum, 1846-1955

Dr Fiona Subotsky describes her research into the former asylum in Peckham Road: 2-30 pm at Chatsworth Baptist Church (entrance in Idmiston Road, SE27).
Friends of West Norwood Cemetery

Wednesday 20 Nov. – The Survey of London

Colin Thom introduces the latest additions to the Survey, 2 volumes on the history of Battersea. 7-30 for 8 pm start, at **Clapham Manor** Primary School, entrance in Belmont Road, SW4 0BZ.
Clapham Society

Saturday 7 December – Tulse Hill Market

From 11 am to 4 pm on Rush Common between Upper Tulse Hill and Somers Road/ Tudor Close – stall bookings to: enquiries@tulsehillforum.org.uk or tel. (020) 3582 3582
Tulse Hill Forum

Sunday 8 December – Winter Fair

11 am to 3 pm in Brockwell Hall, Brockwell Park
Friends of Brockwell Park

Proposals for Your New Town Hall



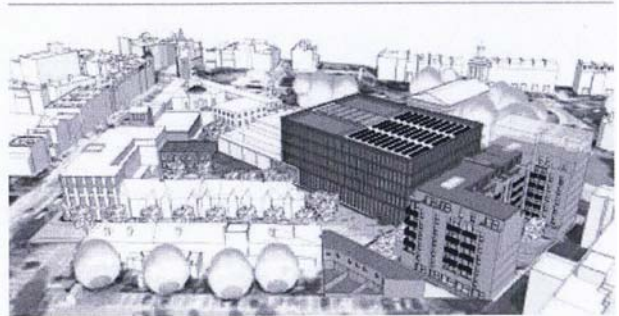
Kajima proposals for new Council offices replacing 1-7 Town Hall Parade, Brixton Hill



Muse proposals for replacing Hambrook House and Town Hall Parade, Brixton Hill (above)



Muse replacement for Olive Morris House
Below: views of United House proposals



War Memorial

Such an excellent job has been done of renovating the Stockwell War Memorial and Gardens that we thought the story should be told in full. Therefore, you will find with this Newsletter a colour supplement about it.

Remembrance Sunday this year is on the 10th November. As usual, a wreath will be laid at the Stockwell War Memorial on behalf of the Brixton Society by one of our members.

St. Andrew's Church Stockwell Green



St. Andrew's is the oldest functioning church in Lambeth with parts of the building dating back to 1767. The only church building which is older is St. Mary, Lambeth, hard by Lambeth Palace. That became disused in 1972 and now houses the Museum of Garden History.



St. Andrew's has many splendid features, not least, the large circular window over the altar. It also contains its own memorial to the dead of the First World War.

This lists some 63 individuals who died in the Great War or afterwards of their wounds. Of these, 40 are also listed on the Stockwell War Memorial.

Bus garage

"Our Hut" is a charity which aims to educate young people and local communities about architecture and the built environment. For more information, visit their website: www.ourhut.org.uk.

They have organised a number of visits to the Stockwell Bus Garage, the most recent of which, on Saturday, 5 October, was hosted by the garage's General Manager, Colin Opher.

The garage was built in 1952 with the startling feature of having no internal pillars to support the roof. At the time it contained the largest area under an unsupported roof in Europe. It is now a Grade II* listed building.



Superb though this architecture is, it has to be admitted that interest in it was somewhat overshadowed by the interest being taken in the "Boris buses" in the garage. These are now being introduced onto route 11. The route should have been fully converted by now, but the buses have suffered from some "teething problems".



However inside the garage they were showing off their latest Boris bus arrival.

This is decked in the livery of the 88 route ("The Clapham Omnibus") which is the next to be changed over to Boris buses. It had been driven over from Northern Ireland where the buses are built. They cost £345,500 each.



Our treasurer, Norma Williamson

The buses were designed to replace the old Routemasters and have an entrance at the rear, as well as the front and centre. This can be used in "open deck" mode allowing people to get on or off whenever the bus halts – not just at a bus stop. However, there are sliding doors to close off the rear platform when required.

The future use of this feature must now be in doubt after the sad accident on 4th October in which a woman fell from the open platform of a No.24 bus and suffered serious head injuries.

There was also a small display - a part of the material generated by Our Hut's community art project celebrating sixty years of the garage last year. There is much to see on the project website: www.allaboardforstockwell.org.uk including heritage photographs of the garage being built and copies of the original plans.

Not just an architecturally important building, the Stockwell Garage is a working building employing some 700 people. Buses are not just housed there: they are fuelled, cleaned and serviced. Running such a building is not without its difficulties we were told. Pigeons are a constant problem and, being a listed building, needing to change the lighting arrangements caused significant issues.

Local rumours of its possible closure were flatly denied by the General Manager.

Lambeth Heritage Festival

The first Lambeth Heritage Festival was held during the month of September and from beginning to last, the Brixton Society played a full part.

On Sunday 8th, Alan Piper led a walk around East Brixton and Myatt's Fields.

On Thursday 12th, we held an open meeting with talks on the theme, "Playing Detective – some investigations in local history".

On Saturday 14th, our monthly walk through Brixton Market was overwhelmed with demand because of the extra publicity.

On Saturday 28th, the festival closed with the Archives Open Day where we had a table as usual. It proved to be one of our most successful attendances at the Open Day.

We have heard equally good reports from across the borough with our sister societies, such as the Streatham Society, reporting very successful events. Walks and talks are a regular part of what we all do but the extra focus and publicity given by the Heritage Festival has proved a great success which we hope can be repeated.

The original idea came from Lambeth Archives and was co-promoted by the Lambeth Local History Forum (www.llhf.org.uk).

King's Hospital Fundraising auction

King's Hospital, Camberwell, may be outside the Brixton Society's recruitment area but it certainly serves many people in Brixton and deserves our full support.

Brixton Society member and artist, Janet Tod, has told us that to celebrate their centenary a fundraising auction of 100 works of art will be held on 12th December. This is being organised by the support charity, "together we can..." and Rosebery's Auctioneers of West Norwood.

For more information, visit the website:

www.togetherwecan.org.uk/kings-college-hospital/news/kings-100-artworks-auction

Friends of Tate Library

Jewellery Workshop on Saturday 9th November

A 2-hour workshop on techniques for making daisy bracelets and cuffs, run by Jo Spilman. 2 pm to 4 pm in the Library, cost £5 max. for materials, min age 8 (under 12s come with an adult please)

Some of Jo's jewellery will be on display and for sale in the library throughout November. Jo's watercolour workshop in September attracted 14 people and some donations towards future workshops. Enquiries to jspilperson@gmail.com or more generally to foftl@gmail.com

Film tribute to football coach Tuesday 22 October, 6-45 pm in the Social Room on Level 5 of the Rec.

BRUG, the Users' Group at the Brixton Recreation Centre, has organised a free screening of **Uncle Steadman**. This is a film about the life and contribution of Steadman Scott, AFEWEE's football coach at the Rec, A.J.Carter his nephew and professional boxer, with support from members of AFEWEE and professional footballers. Preceded by **Niche in the Market**, a short by Rod Main. Followed by a Q & A chaired by Cllr. Rachel Haywood, with Steadman, A.J. Carter, BRUG and Stuart Everett the film-maker.

Steering the future of Lambeth's Parks

The Council has recently held several public meetings to consult on its Co-operative Parks Programme. Final deadline for comments is 19 October so tell us NOW if you want us to include any key points in the Brixton Society's feedback. Although 3 "model" forms of management were offered for each park – directly run by the Council, or in consultation with a Friends group or MAC, or devolved to a local Trust – the reality is more likely to be 65 different versions according to local circumstances. Some sort of collaborative

approach would be needed in most cases, to attract more support from the local community while providing the continuity of Council involvement.

Drive to restore the clock tower in Brockwell Park

An example of how a Friends group can find extra resources is the current fund-raising drive to restore the old clock tower in the centre of the park. By the end of September, £15,000 had been pledged towards the target of £20,000. For donations or enquiries, e-mail clocktower@brockwellpark.com

Fireworks return to Brockwell Park

Lambeth Council announced at the end of September that its public fireworks display would return to Brockwell Park for **Tuesday 5th November**, rather than Clapham Common as originally planned.

The Type Archive

During the Lambeth Country Show I spoke with Sue Shaw, trustee of the Type Archive at 100 Hackford Road SW9, and arranged to visit at the end of July. Established in a former horse hospital in 1992 as the Type Museum, the name change reflects its current development programme. It holds 3 substantial collections of typefounding materials, archives and associated machinery: the Stephenson Blake collection (including material from William Caslon), the Wood letter patterns of Robert DeLittle and the Monotype Corporation.

Orders from around the world for replacing Monotype matrices provide an income stream, and the current emphasis is on providing a resource for design students and specialist apprenticeships or placements, rather than providing general public access.

One of the challenges is to pass on the old craft skills, including compiling operating manuals for the old machinery. Longer-term development will provide safer public access and facilities for events and courses. Any enquiries in the meantime to sueshawtypo@googlemail.com

Alan Piper.

The Brixton Society - Accounts for the year ending 05 April 2013

	2012/2013	2011/2012
Opening Balance	3,551.68	2,071.66
GRANTS/AWARDS	0.00	7,495.00
Members' Subscriptions	1,239.30	858.00
Sale of Publications, etc	2,073.07	1,391.51
Donations	423.24	1,007.57
Postage	122.73	36.70
Bank Interest	0.45	0.48
Miscellaneous	32.00	121.51
Sub-Total	<u>3,890.79</u>	<u>3,415.77</u>
Refunds	-234.61	-
Discounts	-156.89	-104.01
Receipts less discounts/refunds	<u>3,499.29</u>	<u>3,311.76</u>
Opening Bal+Rec	<u>7,050.97</u>	<u>12,878.42</u>
Payment		
Photocopying	0.00	18.00
Newsletter Prod	399.60	525.00
Postage	285.92	464.95
Stationery	33.03	77.72
Publications - purchase	95.64	90.00
Publications - printing	0.00	1,124.20
Posters/Leaflets/Banner	80.00	27.54
Insurance Cost	65.00	58.00
Subscriptions	98.00	80.00
Cost of Meetings	350.00	290.00
Miscellaneous	154.99	169.75
Equipment/Stall	48.98	52.99
Open Square Weekend	1,631.10	5,820.56
Catering/Refreshments	185.66	283.03
Website hosting	551.47	180.00
Events	0.00	65.00
Refund	210.57	0.00
Total Payment	<u>4,189.96</u>	<u>9,326.74</u>
Balance	<u>2,861.01</u>	<u>3,551.68</u>
Closing Balance	<u>2,861.01</u>	<u>3,551.68</u>
Details of Publications Sold		
Town Trails	117.00	112.50
Memories	64.87	19.96
Windrush Square	29.00	21.00
Unearthed	0.00	0.00
Brixton - Story of a name	14.00	7.00
Effra - Lambeth's Underground River	67.50	75.00
Home Secrets	0.00	4.95
Maps	57.40	67.40
Brixton Abridged	8.60	1.25
Postcards	341.50	332.00
History of Brixton	619.38	299.70
Brixton Market LT poster	52.00	36.00
Brixton Boy WWII	29.88	54.78
Black British Celebration	76.00	110.00
Lambeth Edwardian	63.00	26.80
Synagogue	14.94	32.37
Market Walk Tickets	123.00	12.00
Market Walk Books	338.00	156.00
Brixton & Stockwell in The Mirror	12.00	22.80
Lambeth Architecture	45.00	-
	<u>2,073.07</u>	<u>1,391.51</u>
Less Discount	-156.89	-104.01
	<u>1,973.18</u>	<u>1,310.30</u>

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.

M. Ernst 4/7/2013

Maish Ernst - Examiner

Saturday 14th December

Market Stall and Guided Walk

We have been doing this on the 2nd Saturday of each month to tie in with the Maker's Market in Brixton Station Road, but for this Christmas shopping date we will be open for longer AND have our full stock of publications on sale. If you can spare an hour or two to help on the stall, please contact Bill or Diana Linskey on (020) 7274 3835 or [wjdccl@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:wjdcl@globalnet.co.uk)

From the Editor

Space permitting, we try to feature local events and publish reminiscences or enquiries in our newsletter.

Since we welcome news and comments from all interested in the Brixton area, opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the Brixton Society.

All material should be sent to the Secretary, Alan Piper, at 82 Mayall Road, SE24 0PJ, or by e-mail to APiperBrix@aol.com and by 7th December if to appear in the next edition. Phone/ fax to (020) 7207 0347.

Also get in touch if you are trying to trace a past article or find an earlier newsletter.

Street Design Workshop

Lambeth's Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme has been steadily working its way south through the borough, putting into place improvements to streetscape and road safety. Completed work around Hackford Road was featured in our last 2 editions. Work around Stockwell Park and the north-east of the Town Centre is just getting underway, and proposals for the northern half of Coldharbour Ward were unveiled on 1st October, again for completion by next April.

The next phase looks at the public realm within the Brixton Supplementary Planning Document area, including the rest of the Town Centre, the north end of Railton Road and Moorland Estate. There will be a consultation workshop on **Tuesday 15 October** from 6-30 to 8-30 pm at **Brixton Community Base** (St. Vincent's) at the corner of Talma and Probert Roads, SW2.

Safeguarding Children

Community groups and voluntary organisations need to be able to keep up with current legislation if they work with children or vulnerable adults. The system for criminal records checks is now run by the Disclosure and Barring Service, who are providing a free half-day briefing on **Thursday 31 October**, 9 am to 1-30 pm at a Central Brixton venue. This is organised by Lambeth's Safeguarding Children Board – to book, e-mail to: vwhite@lambeth.gov.uk or tel. 020 7926 7068

More Planning changes

The Government has a number of changes in the pipeline, the broad thrust of which is to relax controls and allow developments which are not sustainable in the longer term. We will try to provide a round-up in our next issue.

Locally, Lambeth Council has agreed to make life easier for developers by restricting public comments at its Planning Committee to 2 minutes instead of 3, and requiring written notice of what was to be said.

The Brixton Society has recently submitted comments on the Council's draft **Licensing Policy** and on its latest draft scheme for the **Community Infrastructure Levy**. We now have until 30 October to respond on linked changes to the **Planning Obligations** (S.106) supplementary planning document.

Books to review

We were delighted to receive two new titles on individuals with local connections, but fuller reviews will have to await our next edition:

The Story of Sir Henry Bessemer, by Patricia Jenkyns, first appeared in 1984 but John Brunton has prepared a revised edition, now available from the Herne Hill Society for £5 (plus £1.50 if sent by post).

Painting in Earnest by Steven Harris is a biography of the painter Ernest Carlos, who was active in North Brixton and Camberwell before his death in the First World War: £12 (plus £3 p&p) from Lewarne Publishing, PO Box 26946, London SE21 8XG