

# THE BRIXTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Autumn issue, October 2018

No.231, quarterly, 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)

## Brixton Business

By now, every business trading in Central Brixton should have received its ballot papers by post, because it's decision time on the future of Brixton's Business Improvement District (or BID). The closing date for the return of votes is 5 pm on **31<sup>st</sup> October**. There are 4 ballot boxes, in the **Town Hall**, **San Marino Cafe**, **Diverse** in Coldharbour Lane, and the **Impact Hub at Pop Brixton**, or send to the Freepost address supplied. The results should be announced on 1<sup>st</sup> November. If the majority of businesses vote in favour, the BID will continue for another 5-year term, from January 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

So far, the BID has provided training and promotion for local businesses, additional policing and street-cleansing and co-ordinated the Christmas Lights and Brixton Design Trail. To some extent it has filled the vacuum left by the Council in Town Centre management, but it is limited by its main funding coming from a levy on the business rates of firms within the BID area, at a time when many are finding their rates bills unsustainable, as these reflect increasing commercial rents. Even so, new initiatives are being considered, including supporting creative businesses and more trade discount schemes.

See also [www.brixtonbid.co.uk](http://www.brixtonbid.co.uk)

*More about Town Centre issues on page 9.*



*Brixton's windmill at its re-opening in 2011 after restoration. (BxW Ma11-003.jpg)*

## A last-minute reminder

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> will be the last chance to visit the windmill before tours are suspended for the winter months – and the sails are finally back in place after overdue repairs.

For bookings see [www.brixtonwindmill.org](http://www.brixtonwindmill.org)  
*Organised by Friends of Windmill Gardens.*

## Ageless Day

We are already halfway through the 20<sup>th</sup> Celebrating Age Festival, organised by Lambeth Age UK, but a highlight will be this free event at **Pop Brixton on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>** October, between 3 pm and 8 pm. Speakers, entertainment, workshops and food are promised. For more details call (020) 3143 5695 or see [www.mysocial.london](http://www.mysocial.london)

*More dates inside...*

# Diary of Events, Autumn 2018

## Society Meetings

The Executive Committee 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. These meetings are open to all our members, but if you want to raise a specific issue, it helps if you can tell the Secretary beforehand.

- 11 October
- 8<sup>th</sup> November
- 10 January
- 14 February

## 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 are best booked in advance via [marketwalks@brixtonsociety.org.uk](mailto:marketwalks@brixtonsociety.org.uk) Walks start from Brixton Station Road, corner of Beehive Place at **2-30 pm** and take about 80 minutes.

## Editorial Notice:

Space permitting, we try to feature local events, issues and reminiscences 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](mailto:APiperBrix@aol.com)

## Links with Other Groups

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

### Sunday 14 October – Autumn Walk

Meet at the clock tower in the centre of the park at 2pm for a seasonal walk.  
*Friends of Brockwell Park*

### Thursday 18 October – An A to Z of Croydon

Talk by social historian Michael Gilbert, 8 pm at the Phoenix Centre, Westow Street, SE19.  
*South London Local History Group*

### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Streatham at Westminster

The Rt. Hon. Keith Hill reminisces about his service as Member of Parliament for the Streatham constituency, 8 pm at the Woodlawns Centre, 16 Leigham Court Road, SW16.  
*Streatham Society*

### Wednesday 14 November – William & Margaret Huggins, Astronomers

Louise Devoy, Curator of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, tells the story of the couple who had an observatory on Tulse Hill in the 1860s. Open 7-30 pm for 7-45 start, Herne Hill United Church Hall, corner of Redpost Hill and Herne Hill, SE24.  
*Herne Hill Society*

### Saturday 17 November – A year in the life of a Beekeeper

Jean Azzopardi keeps hives in Norwood Cemetery and describes her work and its challenges. 2-30 pm in the lounge, Chatsworth Baptist Church (use Family Centre entrance on Idmiston Road, SE27). Free but donations welcome.  
*Friends of West Norwood Cemetery.*

### Monday 19 November – the History of Bethlem Royal Hospital

Founded in 1247, “Bedlam” has been based in South London for 200 years - talk by Amy Moffat of the SLAM Foundation Trust. Starts at 8 pm (doors open 7 pm) at Omnibus, the former Clapham Library, 1 North Side, SW4.  
*Clapham Society*

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Brockwell Winter Fair

11 am to 3 pm in Brockwell Hall, Brockwell Park SE24.  
*Friends of Brockwell Park*

### Thursday 20 December – the History of Pantomime

Jon Fox, actor and historian, tells the story of this seasonal entertainment – with audience participation! 7-30 pm at Upper Norwood Library, Westow Hill, SE19.  
*Norwood Society*

More events beyond the Brixton area are detailed on page 11...

## Community Focus

### Lambeth Heritage Festival

After an intensive month of events, which also overlapped with the Brixton Design Trail and London Open House weekend, we are already being prompted to start making plans for next year. But first it would help us to hear what worked for you, what you would like more of – and of course what to avoid or cut back next time!



### Local Heroes Initiative

Brixton Library transformed their beautiful top floor into a well-equipped auditorium for the many who – among the Festival's vast choice of events – chose to attend this year's Local Heroes presentation. Several apologies were received, so we have provided a synopsis below for your information.

LHI was endorsed by Brixton Library, Lambeth Archives, Brixton Society, Brixton Design Trail and the Brixton Bugle. Marilyn's striking outline portraits of Local Heroes – some due back on display for Black History Month - were also part of BDT '18.

Thank you for all your comments, including *"Good to learn that the community seeks out and acknowledges the efforts of local heroes;"* or asking us to *"Promote via schools and local organisations for larger audience numbers."* Indeed there have been school workshops, both on-site and in the library. LHI is open to discussion about more activities with schools and local stakeholders.

Do please get in touch with Marilyn, should you have more nominations, or further comments on the event, that you would like to share with us. All best wishes,

Marilyn Rogers, Annick Alet,  
Friends of Tate Library, Friends of Windrush  
foftlbrixton@gmail.com Square

### Local Heroes – 19 September

It was a privilege and pleasure to welcome our audience, including representatives of Lambeth Libraries, Brixton Society, Friends of Windmill Gardens, and Brixton Community Base. Brixton Soup Kitchen was represented by Solomon Smith and Councillor Dr Mahamed Hashi of Stockwell Ward. We were also pleased to see Rachel Heywood, former councillor for Coldharbour Ward. Mahamad and Solomon stepped up to acknowledge their Local Hero, **Dame Tessa Jowell**, who fought tirelessly for the community and to her very last moments, on behalf of cancer sufferers. Simon Clark, who nominated 2017 Local Hero **Sian Daniels** gifted her latest CD to the library.

After confirmation of last year's nominations (Cherry Groce, Sir Peter Mansfield etc.) and presentation of new choices (Claudia Jones, David Marks, Jon Daniel etc) each presenter depicted the impact of their hero's achievements, detailing the progress and development of connected organisations.

Following a conversation with Bill Linskey about his 2017 Local Hero, **Nellie Roberts**, Tracey Gregory set up the Loughborough Road project to research other residents and businesses. Discreet Nellie – whose half-a-century of orchid paintings are a pillar of the RHS collections – is to be the subject of a forthcoming exhibition in the former Loughborough Hotel.

Jenn Bradley represented Pastor Lorraine Jones to highlight the past year's substantial progress reached through 2017 Hero, **Dwayne Simpson**. Warning about knife crime, and showing the power of positive channelling of young people's energy, Lorraine was in Ghana, opening Dwaynatics MBE's first branch in Africa.

With equally vivid images, Lambeth Library Manager Liz Buchanan presented her local hero, **Derrick Accra**. Family members, including some from USA, came to hear Liz explain how, among countless inspiring actions, Derrick encouraged the creation of Brixton's Ebony Horse Club, for which founder Roz Spearing is still grateful today – a

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powerful acknowledgement of a Local Hero's action for the good of the community.

Led by Chike Akwarandu, the wonderful Pegasus Community Choir, created by 2017 Local Hero Lloyd Newton, came on stage with some of the repertoire chosen by Lloyd himself. The choir rehearses every Monday at 7 pm in the library, and Lloyd's Pegasus Opera Company is already preparing for its next spectacle.

The evening closed with Pam Williams' extraordinary likeness of **Norma Williamson**, who inspired the creation of LHI. Pam was unable to stay for the whole evening, ahead of her trip to Hong Kong for her book's publication, but the watercolour she brought was saluted in awe – we hope to see you all soon for the unveiling.

*Annick Alet.*  
[info@windrushsquare.org.uk](mailto:info@windrushsquare.org.uk)

### Art on the Underground

The latest mural above the stairway to Brixton Tube Station is "Remain, Thriving" by Njideka Akunyili Crosby, incorporating local images and personalities. It will be in place for 6 months. Commemorating the street murals which were prominent around Brixton in the 1980s, TfL have published a **Brixton Mural Map**, available at South London Tube Stations or from [www.art.tfl.gov.uk/brixton-mural-map](http://www.art.tfl.gov.uk/brixton-mural-map) This was prepared with assistance from the London Mural preservation Society, with most local examples illustrated and described.

### Windrush Generations

This is a collection of video interviews with first generation immigrants from the Caribbean, part of an ongoing documentary series, **1000 Londoners**, compiled by **Chocolate Films**. Through a chance contact at a recent event, we discovered they are planning a special screening at the Ritzy on **Thursday 6 December**. They are also screening at the National Portrait Gallery (16 November) Barbican (17 November) and Curzon Soho on 5 December.

The series aims to cover a range of ages and backgrounds – more details and examples can be found at <http://www.1000londoners.com/>

### Adventure Playgrounds back

We mentioned efforts to re-open the **Grove Adventure Playground** off Minet Road in our last issue. The Council have leased the site to Loughborough Junction Action Group for 3 years, which should bring some stability. The People's Health Trust and the Fresh Leaf Foundation have helped fund it.

Now the **Dexter Playground** on Railton Road has quietly re-opened, operated by Play at Heart. Initially, it will be open 3 evenings a week, offering a Homework Club from 4 pm to 5 pm each day, then from 5 pm to 6 pm, Street Dance on Wednesdays, Taekwondo on Thursdays and Cookery on Fridays.

Enquiries to [info@playathert.org](mailto:info@playathert.org) or phone 07 821 224 445.

### Brixton Review of Books

It's a "free" literary quarterly, based locally – in practice it will cost you a tenner to subscribe, ensuring 4 issues delivered to your door anywhere in the UK.

I managed to pick up Issue No.2 from the Brixton Pound Cafe in July, so we should be due another issue about now. More news at <http://www.brixtonreviewofbooks.net/>

### Sewing at North Brixton

Lady Margaret Hall Settlement has provided training, education and community development in Lambeth since 1897. Previously based in Wandsworth Road, in recent years it has been running a sewing workshop at Unit 1 of the Co-op Centre, Mowll Street, SW9.

Classes in Clothes upcycling and mending, Embroidery and Millinery are starting this term, as well as a drop-in Crafts session.

Enquiries to (020) 7480 0216.

## Local History

The Tate Library, Brixton

by

Bill Linskey



Published by the Brixton Society

## THE TATE LIBRARY, BRIXTON

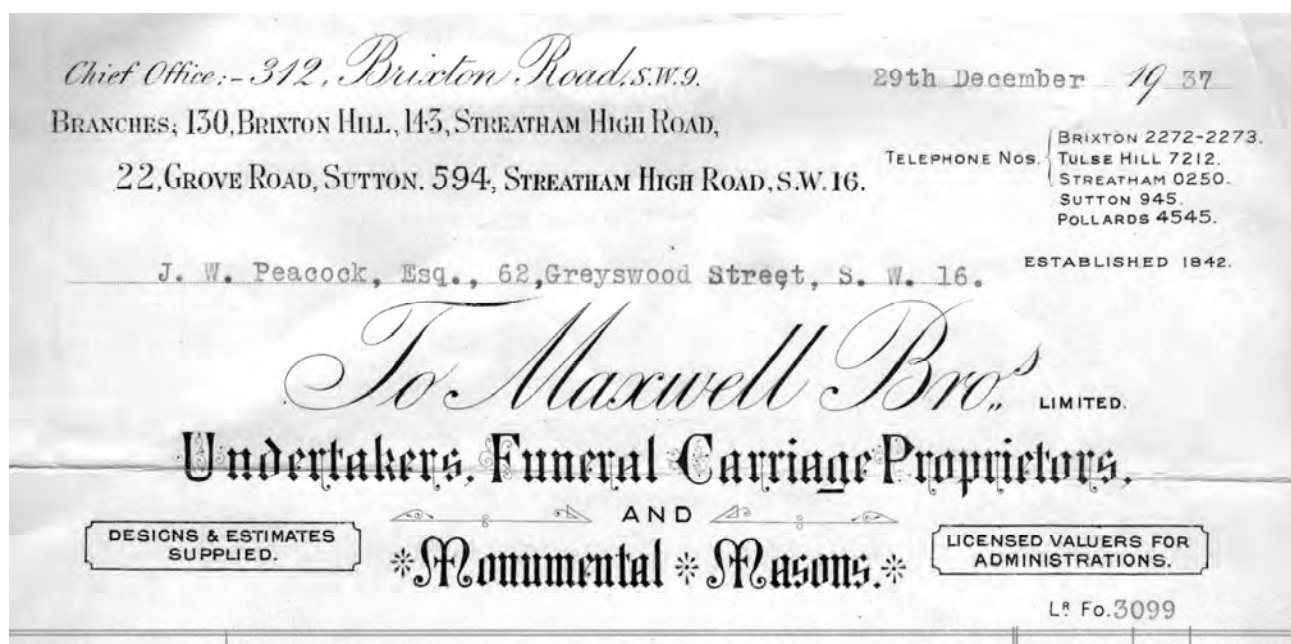
We published our latest local history book on 1st September 2018 in time for the Lambeth Heritage Festival.

The book sets out to tell the story of how Brixton came to have the fine library that has been serving its population for more than a century. To merely state that it was the gift of Sir Henry Tate, Bart would hardly do justice to the story. Therefore, the first part of the book is about the life, work and philanthropy of Tate.

The book is 32 A5 pages, with black and white illustrations and a colour cover. It sells for £2.50 plus 70p postage.

Order from our website:

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



This rather splendid bill head from 1937 cannot help but bring to mind the bombardment of television advertisements trying to sell us life insurance with frightening statements about how much the cost of funerals has increased.

Looking at one bill from 1937 hardly constitutes a proper study of how funeral costs have changed over time. If any of our readers feels inclined to undertake such a study, we would be delighted to publish their findings.

Nevertheless, making a comparison is irresistible. This bill is for £62.19s.0d (or £62.95 as a decimal). Using the on-line Bank of England inflation calculator, that's equivalent to £4076 today.

The Money Advice Service website ([www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk](http://www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk)) says that the average cost of a funeral today is £4078! You couldn't make up such a coincidence. Expensive or not, it hasn't changed over the years in our sample of one.

# Should Be Better Remembered

## EDWARDIAN FAMILY



This postcard image of an Edwardian family in their back garden may well have been taken somewhere in Brixton.

The clue lies in this, small handstamp on the back of the card:



It is one of three cards I have bearing a handstamp of E.W. Ekenes and I know of one larger photograph also by Ekenes.

That is not many for a professional photographer; in any case, professional photographers usually have their details printed on their cards. I suspected he was a talented amateur and decided to find out more about him.

## ERNEST WILLIAM EKENS

... was born in 1876, the son of a carpenter. In 1890 he joined the Post Office as a Telegraph Messenger Boy. The 1891 census has him living in Edithna Street with his parents and in 1901 he is in Kay Road. Later that year, he married in St. Matthew's church. He is by now a postman.

Unfortunately, his first wife died young and in 1909 he remarried in St. Paul's church and his address is given as 182 Ferndale Road: the address on the postcard.

The 1911 census has him living *en famille* with his second wife and two daughters; one by her and one by his first wife. Sadly, again, his happiness was not to last.

Following the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Ekens joined the 2nd/8th Battalion of the London Regiment – the Post Office Rifles.

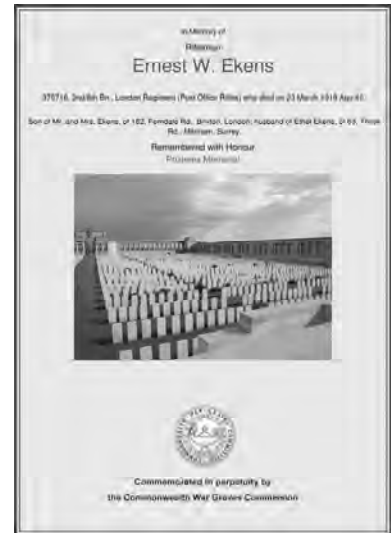


He may well be one of the men in this photograph.

In the course of the war, no fewer than 4,500 men of the Post Office Rifles were wounded and 1,800 were killed; Ekens was one of them. He died on 23 March 1918 and is buried at Pozieres.

He left £198 to his wife; that's about £10,000 today. He died neither impoverished nor rich.

In addition to being commemorated in Pozieres, he is remembered closer to home. As



well as the war memorials in public places, there are many in places of work - not publicly accessible - paid for by the employer or, quite often, as a result of a collection taken up by work mates. There is one such in the Wynne Road Royal Mail Delivery Office and Ekens is the first name on it.



What is so special about him that he deserves to be better remembered? Nothing; that's the point – husband, father, postman – he was just an ordinary man like the hundreds from the area who died in WWI.

We cannot easily assemble a full list but as the centenary of the end of the war is only weeks away, we can remember one man as a proxy for them all.

Bill Linskey

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### Brixton Workspaces

Our regular Market Walks tend to focus on Shopping as Brixton's original commercial activity, but a wider range of manufacturing and distribution uses were established around the wider Brixton area between the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. From the 1950s, these enterprises closed or moved out of the area, so that many firms are now forgotten.

We highlighted a few such sites during two of our Summer Walks – around North Brixton in August, and Stockwell Green in September. The north end of Brixton Road still has a large industrial estate, where a 1906 taxi garage was incorporated into a larger development which opened in 1924. Last year we received some old photos of the official opening, one of which is reproduced overleaf. Taken from the forecourt, it clearly shows the shops on the opposite side of Brixton Road. Nearby, part of the former Haywards Pickles factory survives as workshop units in Offley Road.

Stockwell Green appears to have had two breweries and a wax-bleaching factory before the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Pittville Mineral Waters were at 11 Stockwell Road (see their cart below), and other firms were distributed along this street by 1940. Postwar, the street was dominated by Pride & Clarke's red-painted showrooms, as reported in January (Newsletter 228). Even the present Stockwell Congregational Church used to be a tyre depot. Indeed in the 1960s most of the main roads out of Brixton had sites devoted to vehicle sales or repairs, whilst now it's hard even to find a petrol station to refuel at!



### Local Churches

During London Open House weekend last month, I took the opportunity to see inside both **St. John's** Church, in Vassall Road on the northern fringe of our area, and **Christchurch**, which gives its name to Christchurch Road, part of the South Circular Road. These were both built for the needs of emerging local congregations, but many of the Brixton churches established in Victorian times sprang from the enthusiasm of estate owners and property developers to provide their new streets with a focal point and distinct identity.

One such was **St. Jude's**, East Brixton, the subject of a recent talk by Peter Bradley for the Friends of Brockwell Park. The owners of the Brockwell Estate aimed to develop parts of their land from the 1820s on, but death or incapacity frustrated their ambitions, leaving the church with only two thirds of its expected catchment area once the park opened. Rather than replicate Peter's talk, for now I will just explain an anomaly in the current park boundary.

The original St. Jude's vicarage was a Gothic pile intended to front onto a new road parallel to Dulwich Road, but the opening of the park meant that the plots on either side were never built on. Today the "road" is no more than a track between the Lido and the Brixton Water Lane gate. In 1944 a V1 damaged the church but destroyed the vicarage, which was soon replaced by a more modest building. This was sold off when the parish merged with others, by which time Lambeth no longer had the resources to buy the site to extend the park. The building has since been remodelled.

### Responses to enquiries

We are gradually adding more material to our website to help those pursuing their own researches into local institutions or former family connections with Brixton. We are limited in the help we can give with individual cases, but we try to share sources, tips and short-cuts which have worked for us. Expect more soon about **Title Deeds**, **Trade Directories** and estimating when your street or house was built.

ADP





## Planning and Regeneration

### Town Centre Trends

Last month's meeting of the London Forum of Amenity Societies reviewed the state of Town Centres across Greater London. A hierarchy of centres – local, district, major and metropolitan – originated with the original County of London Plan. The old GLC expanded the concept to give almost every borough a major centre of equal standing. Fifty years on, some centres have wilted under the weight of past plans or competition from stronger neighbours, while a fortunate few have raced ahead.

Changing shopping patterns and the tough economic climate of the past decade have sharpened the Darwinian struggle both for town centres and for the businesses on which they are based. The prospect of Brexit and ongoing austerity suggest the pressures will not be relaxed anytime soon. With councils struggling to afford even street cleaning, town centre management and promotion are being left to Business Improvement Districts or local partnership arrangements.

Too often, Regeneration projects are counter-productive, replacing dog-eared workspace by bigger shinier blocks of flats, shrinking local job opportunities and exporting most of the profits. Relaxation of planning controls has only made it easier for shops, pubs and other business uses to be displaced by housing development, reducing the visible size of any centre. Whereas 10 years ago, town centres were the preferred location for major retail or entertainment uses, National planning policy has since watered this down.

So, with established shops and pubs disappearing, what are the alternative uses that can continue to attract people to town centres? A wider range of entertainment and leisure uses can help. In Brixton a clutch of such buildings were rescued or revived in the 1990s, but even so the O2 Academy has not brought all the benefits to the rest of the Town Centre that were hoped for. A “night-time” economy is a mixed blessing that needs to be planned for, and Lambeth certainly has been slow to grapple with the practical issues.

Another approach to attracting more visitors from a wider area is to be a “niche” destination

rather than just a “clone town”. It helps to have a historic core or ancient monument for visitors to admire, but even Brixton's street market is part of a distinctive offer which already attracts visitors from far afield.

As traditional shops have declined, cafes and restaurants have filled some of the gaps. For local centres, take-away services dominate, but in larger centres there have been more opportunities for restaurants, offering an increasingly wide range of cuisines. However the casualty rate has been high, partly due to competing restaurant chains' willingness to pay high rents, which stimulate market rents (and ultimately rates) to unsustainable levels.



*Mx-4X18-05.jpg*

Current trends in the Catering business are that Fast Food is doing best, with 4.7% sales growth nationally, compared with 3.7% for branded restaurants and just 1.5% for pubs. The actual number of pubs and bars fell by 2.4% nationwide. Predictions are that growth in the number of branded restaurants will slow, though the likes of Wagamama and Nando's

## Planning and Regeneration

are still seeking to expand. Customers too busy to cook at home are paying more frequent visits to venues like these, with a familiar offer, but there is also increasing demand for home delivery, with Just Eat and Deliveroo being kept busy. Over the next 3 years, we are likely to see 3% growth in the number of branded outlets, and just 1% in the number of independent restaurants. (*UK market overview presented at the Restaurant Show on 1<sup>st</sup> October.*)

A quieter area of growth, both in Brixton Town Centre and in neighbourhood parades, has been hairdressing and related services. While nail parlours and spas do need planning permission, hairdressers have always been treated as ordinary shops, so can replace a delicatessen without officialdom noticing.

Even less visible in town centres are the offices and workshops of a wider range of businesses, often above or behind the shops. Their presence can boost weekday daytime trade for the shops and cafes, though surveys for Brixton BID suggest these are rarely big-ticket purchases. They have usually been the first to be displaced by housing development, but we are beginning to see efforts to arrest their decline. There is certainly interest in securing space for small creative businesses in centres like Brixton with good public transport connections. Lambeth is retaining International House for 5 years as managed workspace which can be let to small firms, though we also need to look further ahead if we want these firms to stay around.

*Alan Piper.*

### Lambeth Licensing Review

A running sore in recent years has been the Council's inability to control night-time uses and nuisances through the Licensing system. They are consulting on changes and we will be responding. You can comment too but the deadline is Wednesday **24 October**. Simplest way to find the proposals is from the Council website [www.lambeth.gov.uk](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk) and follow the links via Consultations. We hope you will share your views with us too, though Council powers are limited by the legislation.

### Street Market Masterplan

Another Council consultation with an imminent deadline is a new management scheme for the Brixton street markets. In this case the deadline is **Friday 19 October**, but use the same web links to access the documents.

At times like this we miss Stuart Horwood, who gave up his market stall last month, for his efforts as Chair of the Brixton Market Traders Federation to keep the Brixton Station Road market going through recent years.

### Makerhood at a Crossroads

Makerhood is a social enterprise (registered as a CIC) currently involving 70 paying businesses, mostly micro-businesses or single makers in crafts or creative industries. After 8 productive and creative years, the current directors are looking to step down.

They have asked members to consider different options, such as turning Makerhood into an informal network, or merging with another local organisation, or simply handing over to fresh directors to continue on similar lines. It could continue formally supporting makers through new ventures, or launch a physical shop or space, or publish books on business for makers and artists. Fortunately there is no debt, even a little cash in the bank, and a strong social media presence.

Makerhood will continue on the present basis until Christmas while they consider their options. Enquiries in the meantime to [hello@makerhood.com](mailto:hello@makerhood.com)

**The Makerhood Festive Showcase** will run through December at **Diverse** in Coldharbour Lane, with products from 12 chosen members on sale in a dedicated section of the shop. Diverse will also be offering these products online, at [www.diversegifts.co.uk](http://www.diversegifts.co.uk)

### Planning applications & appeals

The timescales for most cases are too rapid for us to flag up in this newsletter, but if you hear of a case that worries you, please contact us quickly at [planning@brixtonsociety.org.uk](mailto:planning@brixtonsociety.org.uk)

## Beyond Brixton

We would like to share news of several events and exhibitions beyond Brixton's boundaries...

### London Fire Brigade Museum

As reported in our January issue, they continue to host events in the old workshop on Lambeth High Street, across the road from the former HQ fronting the Albert Embankment. For half-term, they are holding a **Family Learning Festival** on Wednesday **24 October**, with a fire safety theme. Drop in between 10 am and 3 pm, suitable for children aged 3 and over.

### Museum of London

#### London Nights:

A photography exhibition showcasing London streets by night, until **11 November** at the main site on London Wall/ Aldersgate Street, EC2: £10 entry if booked at [www.museumoflondon.org.uk/londonnights](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/londonnights)

#### Roman Dead:

Death and burial in Roman London, until **28 October** at the **Docklands** site, West India Quay (DLR), admission free.

### Fairfield Halls

Presently undergoing a £30 million makeover, Croydon's arts complex should re-open in 2019 – sign up for news of progress at [www.lp.fairfield.co.uk](http://www.lp.fairfield.co.uk)

### London Society

If your interests extend beyond Brixton to London generally, the London Society offers a variety of talks and visits. The Society has regained its vigour over the past 2 years, and is offering an extra 3 months free membership for anyone joining before the end of October. More details at [www.londonsociety.org.uk](http://www.londonsociety.org.uk) or enquiries to [info@londonsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@londonsociety.org.uk)



### IWM London:

Two free exhibits which will run until 31 March at the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth Road, SE1.

### African Soldier

Mimesis: African soldier is a multi-media installation by the film-maker John Akomfrah. While soldiers and labourers were brought from British and French colonies to serve on the Western Front, the Germans sustained a campaign in East Africa with their own colonial troops.

### Renewal

Life after the First World War, illustrated by a rich collection of black-and-white photographs, starting with the Armistice celebrations and continuing through the reconstruction process.

### Garden Museum

The museum is housed in the former St. Mary's Church next to Lambeth Palace, now with a modern extension adding a cafe and lecture room.

### Repton Revealed

Their new exhibition runs from 24 October to 3<sup>rd</sup> February, to mark the bicentenary of the death of Humphry Repton (1752-1818). Repton became in effect the successor to Capability Brown as the leading landscape architect of his day. The exhibition brings together 23 of his trademark Red Books, which he used to present his proposed improvements, with before and after views of the landscape. Admission £10 (concessions apply), for more details see [www.gardenmuseum.org.uk](http://www.gardenmuseum.org.uk)

### Beautiful and Useful

London's newest Craft Fair will be at the Garden Museum on **Sunday 18 November**, 10-30 to 5 pm, usual admission charges apply.

### Museum of Brands

Two new exhibitions on graphic design: **50 years of Time Out Covers** runs until 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019. Starting on 23 October, **A Century of Public Health England Campaigns** will run until 26 March. Admission £9 (£7 concessions), details at [www.museumofbrands.com](http://www.museumofbrands.com)

### Introducing Naybur

We highlighted the Norwood & Brixton Food-bank in our January issue, but another is now active north of the Town Centre. Naybur is a support and skills promotion agency located in Lambeth's Vassall Ward. They aim to promote people into social and economic inclusion, by helping to remove some of the physical and psychological obstacles in their way.

Their services include a small food bank, inter-generational events, referral services and IT support. The food bank, Naybur's Pantry, tries to encourage healthy eating and is part of the local food network. They are now based in the depot and greenhouse in Myatt's Fields Park – nearest gate by the junction of Brief Street and Cormont Road, SE5. See their website, <https://www.naybur.org.uk>

### 81 Acts of Exuberant Defiance: 1981-2021

Brixton-based arts activists Tony Cealy and Chloe Osbourne have been exploring a cultural programme for Spring 2021 to coincide with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original Brixton riots, and have already enlisted support from several local organisations.

More background information at [www.81actsofexuberantdefiance.com](http://www.81actsofexuberantdefiance.com)

They have now fixed a first meeting for a steering group to take ideas forward, on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November**, from 5 to 7 pm at Brixton Tate Library. Enquiries to [81radicalactsofdefiance@gmail.com](mailto:81radicalactsofdefiance@gmail.com) or call Tony on 07 956 877 358 or Chloe on 07 812 993 002.

### Longfield Hall

Their singing group, **Longfield Voices** has paused due to a funding gap, but will meet again for 4 weeks from Thursday 15 November (10 am to 11-30 am) to prepare for Longfield Carols on **9<sup>th</sup> December**. They are always looking for new members so do go along or get in touch via [enquiry@longfieldhall.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@longfieldhall.org.uk)

Sport England have recently provided funding for free classes including 50+ Yoga (11-30 am Tuesdays) and Ballet conditioning (2-30 pm Fridays) until October next year. Free 50+ Boxing fitness is still running at 1 pm to 2 pm on Tuesdays, and next month a new 50+ Zumba class starts on Mondays at 11-30 am. See their website for the full schedule, at [www.longfieldhall.org.uk](http://www.longfieldhall.org.uk)

### Celebrate Windrush

A musical voyage presented by Pegasus Opera Company on **Tuesday 23 October** in the Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall.

Doors open 6-45 for a 7-30 pm start, tickets £20 (£10 concessions) from Brixton Library or online at [www.eventlambeth.co.uk/windrush70](http://www.eventlambeth.co.uk/windrush70)



### Mosaic Workshops

Another in a series of special events hosted at the Art4Space Community Arts Centre, 5 minutes walk from Stockwell Tube Station:

#### Day of the Dead Mosaic Workshop on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 10 am to 4 pm

The Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday to remember deceased friends and family members. The tutors will guide you through an array of mosaic techniques to make your own personal candy skull motif. Cost £75 including materials, vegetarian lunch and a glass of wine. To book see [www.art4space.co.uk](http://www.art4space.co.uk) or e-mail to Julie at [jewels@art4space.co.uk](mailto:jewels@art4space.co.uk)

There are also ongoing Mosaic classes on Tuesday evenings, 6-30 to 9-30 pm – once again, enquiries to [jewels@art4space.co.uk](mailto:jewels@art4space.co.uk)