

# THE BRIXTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer issue, July 2021

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Distributed free to members.

Registered with the London Forum of Amenity  
Societies, Registered charity no. 1058103,  
website: [www.brixtonsociety.org.uk](http://www.brixtonsociety.org.uk)

## Lambeth Heritage Festival

Once again the month of September will be filled with events linked to Lambeth's diverse heritage – some on-line, but others will take place in the real world again! Due to ongoing uncertainty, final details will be on-line via our own website, the Lambeth Local History Forum site, and the Lambeth Council website. Meanwhile, here are some local highlights...

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September:

#### Local History Fair

##### St. Mark's Church, Kennington

At the far north end of Brixton Road, opposite the Oval Tube Station. Open between 10.30 and 4.30 pm, including a series of talks. If you can spare some time to help staff our stall, please call Bill Linskey on (020) 7274 3835 or e-mail to [wjdccl@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:wjdcl@globalnet.co.uk)

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September:

#### Local Heroes unveiled

6.30 pm at Brixton Tate Library: Revealing the banner prepared by the Craft group from Friends of Tate Library, with brief stories about the people commemorated.

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September:

#### A History of Tulse Hill

6.30 pm at Brixton Tate Library: An illustrated talk by Alan Piper, exploring the extensive area between Brockwell Park and Brixton Hill.



*107 Tulse Hill seen c.1955, since demolished.  
CI-2020-10-14-TH157.jpg*

## Annual General Meeting and Social, Thursday 12 August

7 pm at the amenity building by Brixton  
Windmill, Windmill Gardens, SW2.

*More details on page 3 inside.*

## Forthcoming Summer Walks

*All walks start at 2.30 pm. This year, we ask you to reserve places in advance so that we can regulate numbers – by e-mail to*

[info@brixtonsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@brixtonsociety.org.uk)

*We will respond by confirming the meeting point and issuing a couple of old maps or pictures, rather than pass them round during the walk.*

### Sunday 18 July – Landor Road

Focus on the changing nature of the Inner City

### Sunday 15 August – Stockwell Park

What is so new about Gentrification?

### Sunday 26 Sept. – Coldharbour East

Exploring beyond Loughborough Junction  
(please note change of date)

### Sunday 17 October – Railton Road

For those who missed the tour on 11 April!

*See inside for more coming events...*

# Diary of Events – High Summer 2021

## Committee Dates

Our Executive Committee meets monthly, on the second Thursday, to plan activities and agree our response to current issues. Meetings are currently held on-line via Zoom, but are still open to any of our members. If you want to join in or to raise a specific issue, please contact the Chair a week beforehand at [chair@brixtonsociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@brixtonsociety.org.uk)

- 9 September
- 14 October
- 11 November

## In Abeyance

Once again, there is no live **Lambeth Country Show** this year, just an on-line event to keep the name alive. Please take the opportunity to meet us for real at the Social next month, or the Local History Fair in September. Our **Market Walks** remain suspended for the time being, but we will review the situation before the next newsletter.

## 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 [info@brixtonsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@brixtonsociety.org.uk)

## Events arranged by other groups

*Please check directly with organisers for any queries over times or costs.*

### The Brixton Blog and Bugle Art Show

Continues until **19 July**, in the Gallery at Brixton Tate Library, with works by 40 artists including a few of our members. Viewing by appointment: e-mail to [rblack@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:rblack@lambeth.gov.uk) and wear a mask when visiting. *Brixton Blog & Bugle/ Lambeth Libraries*

### Guided Walks

In addition to our own guided walks, others are being provided – either live or virtually – by other groups within the Lambeth Local History Forum. For details, see the LLHF website at [www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk](http://www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk)

### Town Centre Music

The Brixton BID have arranged further **Lockdown Lifts** performances by the Brixton Chamber Orchestra on Monday 19 July, across Electric Circle, Tunstall Square and Brixton Station Road. They are following up with the **Brixton Performs** Festival on Wednesday 28 July, including live music and comedy. *Brixton BID.*

### Music on the bandstand

Meanwhile, the bandstand in Myatt's Fields Park is hosting a series of live performances between 3 pm and 6 pm on Sundays. Yaaba Funk appears on 11

July, Matters on 18 July, Jelly's Jams on 25 July, Colectiva on 1<sup>st</sup> August, and Vinyle Memories: Next Generation on 8<sup>th</sup> August. Enquiries to [www.camberwellfair.co.uk](http://www.camberwellfair.co.uk) *Myatt's Fields Park Project/ Camberwell Fair.*

### Brixton Windmill tour dates, Summer 2021

The windmill is open for tours at least one weekend a month, between 1 pm and 5 pm. Advance booking is essential due to space restrictions and Covid precautions. For latest details, see the website, [www.brixtonwindmill.org](http://www.brixtonwindmill.org) *Friends of Windmill Gardens*

### Car Boot sales in Brockwell Park

The monthly car boot sales in the Brockwell Lido car park have resumed: gates open to sellers from 7 am, fee £10 per car, sale closes at 1 pm and stalls to be cleared by 2 pm. Next dates Sundays 11 July, 8 August, 12 September. *Friends of Brockwell Park/ Camberwell Fair.*

### Explore West Norwood Cemetery again

Monthly guided tours were about to resume as we put this newsletter together, so next dates are Sundays 1<sup>st</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> September. Tours last 90 to 120 minutes and start at 2-30 pm from the cemetery main gate on Norwood Road, SE27. Please book in advance via [www.fownc.org/news/](http://www.fownc.org/news/) *Friends of West Norwood Cemetery.*

# Announcements

## It's that time again

Most membership subscriptions are due for renewal this month. If this newsletter came through your letterbox, a renewal form should be enclosed, so please help us by responding promptly. If you prefer to hand over cash or a cheque in person, there are a few events coming up where you can do so. If you have picked up this newsletter by chance, we urge you to support us, because subscriptions and sales have allowed us to survive when grants and sponsorship are hard to come by – to join or renew online, go to our website, [www.brixtonsociety.org.uk](http://www.brixtonsociety.org.uk)

## It's not just money we need...

Take a look at the Annual Report in the centre pages to see some of the issues we have been involved in. This is only possible by sharing the workload among a committee of at least a dozen people. We urgently need new younger members to share in this, and we are anxious too that we should reflect the diversity of the area. The Annual Meeting next month is the ideal opportunity to join the committee and play a more active part in what we do. If you are not sure, e-mail the Chair, Bill Linskey, for more details: [chair@brixtonsociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@brixtonsociety.org.uk)

## You have been warned!

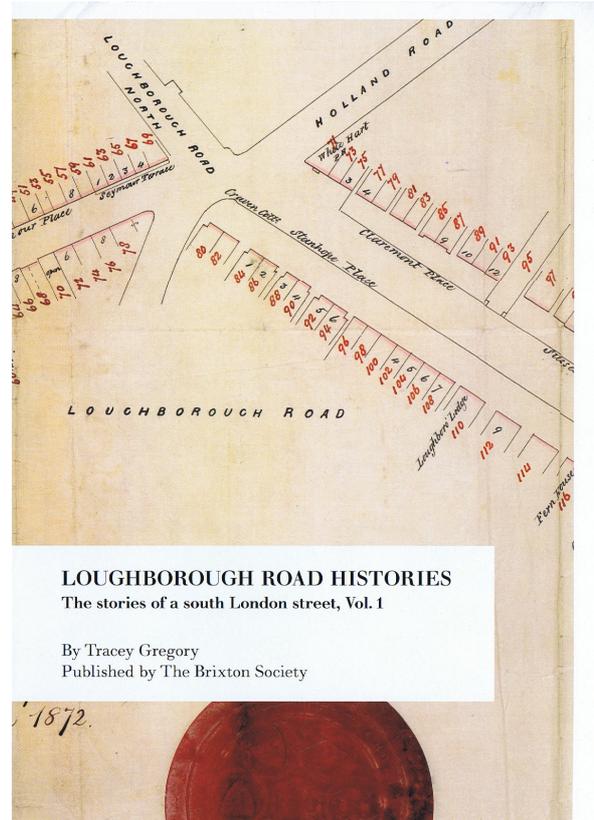
Events details in this edition are based on the information available at the beginning of July, but it will be another week before members see a paper copy. The experience of the past year tells us that restrictions can change at short notice. While the situation should be better come September, live events may yet be cancelled, or more likely, shifted on-line, so do check nearer the date.

*Alan Piper.*

## Support for grassroots groups

Details of grant offers, training courses and other forms of support are regularly included in the monthly e-bulletins which the **Brixton Neighbourhood Forum** has been publishing through the pandemic.

To join their distribution list, please contact the part-time administrator, Maria Thacker, at [admin@brixtonneighbourhoodforum.org](mailto:admin@brixtonneighbourhoodforum.org)



## Our latest book

This is the culmination of a Heritage Lottery Fund project carried out by members of the LEAF Tenants & Residents Association, led by Tracey Gregory. It looked at the shops, pubs and people of Loughborough Road, holding talks and exhibitions, and with much sharing of memories. The book brings together some of their blog posts, together with a selection of evocative images. There are six chapters:

- The beginnings of the street;
- The shops in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century;
- 63 Loughborough Road and its uses;
- 65 & 67, oilman, hardware store and publisher of a black writer;
- The Loughborough Hotel and Tavern;
- Nelly Roberts, official orchid artist.

This is Volume 1, so there could be another if more material comes to light. The price is £3.50, plus 90p postage, available through the e-bay shop on the Brixton Society website.

## Local History Unlocked

The series of on-line talks by Lambeth's archivists will resume during the Heritage Festival in September – more news next month!

# Town Hall Topics

## Boundary Changes

Next year's Lambeth Council elections will be fought on new Ward boundaries. The Local Government Boundary Commission has been working on the changes for a year, and is now consulting on the final shape of the last few wards. The provisional Clapham Common ward would have its eastern boundary defined by Bedford Road and King's Avenue, our own western boundary. Stockwell East & Landor ward would extend from Clapham North Station via Landor Road north-east to South Island Place, but excludes Stockwell Green and the Stockwell Park Estate.

The other proposed change is for the area directly south of Brockwell Park, adding most of the St. Martin's Estate to almost all of the present Thurlow Park ward, provisionally to be called West Dulwich & St. Martin's.

The consultation closes on **26 July**, and more details are at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/lambeth> and follow the links to the Further Draft Recommendations.

## Power within the Town Hall

The paradox of the present Council set-up is that, whoever you voted for, only the 11 Cabinet members have any power, while the other 52 are largely decorative. There is little scrutiny of how individual cabinet members are performing between Council meetings.

There is growing interest in returning to a traditional committee system with a more collective approach, where each committee chair is answerable to the other members and can only take urgent decisions in consultation with the vice-chair. Green Party councillors raised the issue during the Council's annual meeting in April, and Sheffield electors have already voted for change in a referendum. There is currently a petition in Lambeth calling for a similar referendum, which would be triggered if 5% of voters sign it: see <https://onelambeth.co.uk/lambeth-referendum> or [www.gopetition.com/petitions/make-lambeth-council-work-for-all-voters.html](http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/make-lambeth-council-work-for-all-voters.html)

## Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

We are probably missing a lot of the issues, because supporters and opponents tend to moan in separate echo chambers. A year on, there are successes, but the two issues that need to be addressed are the displacement of traffic to other roads, such as Landor Road made busier by the Ferndale LTN, and the nuisance to residents of convoluted access due to poor layout design, such as the northern arm of Shakespeare Road which was cut off from Railton Road without prior consultation.

New and inaccurate maps were delivered in the LTNs in June, but that for the Railton LTN (and maybe others?) failed to describe the Council's intentions or timescale for any further developments or consultations. All we were given was the website address for comments: [rtstreets.commonplace.is/news](http://rtstreets.commonplace.is/news)

Councillor Holland's promotion to Council Leader means the cabinet responsibility for LTNs is now shared between Councillors Mahamed Hashi and Danny Adilypour, so maybe share your comments with them?

In contrast, TfL's consultation on retaining A23 restrictions will be open until 17 November – see [www.tfl.gov.uk/oval-streatham](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/oval-streatham)

## Neighbourhood Champions

Lambeth Council has re-launched its Street Champions scheme to recognise that it also now applies on housing estates of flats and maisonettes. Champions can provide grass-roots oversight of street cleaning, tree care and other environmental issues on their patch, or support Freshview-type local clean-ups.

To join or find out more, look up [www.lambeth.gov.uk/neighbourhoodchampions](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/neighbourhoodchampions)

Which reminds me, when we talked last time about adding extra plants in street tree pits, Lara from Lambeth Parks pointed out that for newly-planted trees, there can be too much competition for moisture, so it's better to allow them a couple of years to get established.

*Alan Piper.*

# Green Spaces & Green Issues

## Lambeth Climate Assembly

Lambeth's Climate Assembly was due to discuss its recommendations just as we were preparing this newsletter for the printers, so it's a little too early to say what proposals will emerge, and it may be a while longer before we see how many the Council will follow up. Direct emissions from the Council's own activities are relatively modest, largely because so many of its services are contracted out these days, but it is well placed to encourage greener practices by residents and local businesses. So, will Lambeth show leadership, or just hide behind the usual empty platitudes? More in our next issue...

## Daylight Robbery

Most high-rise or high-density planning applications that we see threaten to reduce the daylight and sunlight that neighbours receive to their windows. The current standards for windows are not very stringent and developers often try to brush infringements aside. But the standards (devised by BRE in 1991) also cover outdoor amenity areas, including parks and playgrounds. These are now threatened by new Supplementary Planning Guidance from the Mayor, reducing the target amount of sunlight to outdoor spaces from 6 hours a day to just 2!

London Assembly member Sian Berry (Green) has already persuaded the London Assembly to vote against the proposal, backed by the London Wildlife Trust, MPGA, SAVE Britain's Heritage, the Garden Museum and others.

More information is at

<https://stoptheblocks.org/daylight-for-everyone>

Or to sign the petition to the Mayor, go to:

<https://www.change.org/p/london-mayor-six-hours-sunlight-for-parks-playgrounds-and-wildlife>

## Bees' Needs Week: 12-18 July

This is an annual event co-ordinated by DEFRA, working with conservation groups, businesses and academics to raise awareness of bees and other pollinators. These insects are vital for plants to flourish in our gardens, parks and fields. Find more details at:

<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org>

## Events in Parks

The issue of major commercial events in the borough's parks has been contentious for years. The Council – or at least its Events Team – are keen to increase the number of events to generate more income to help look after the parks, but the increased wear and tear means that income is too easily lost again in reinstatement costs. The burden tends to fall on major open spaces like Brockwell Park and Clapham Common, with some demand too for smaller central sites like Windrush Square. The resulting disturbance to nearby residents from music events has long been a concern, but residents cooped up in flats increasingly resent seeing large parts of their local greenspace fenced off for commercial use. While the Council pays some attention to the needs of organised sport, they ignore the value of less formal recreation and the "quiet enjoyment" of a stroll in the park.

Brockwell Park Community Partners discussed the latest Council proposals on 4<sup>th</sup> July, with up to 23 members joining the Zoom meeting, including a couple of local Councillors. The draft Events Strategy at least attempts to look 5 years ahead, but its authors seem to have overlooked that the refurbishment of Brockwell Hall, approved earlier this year, will eventually bring its own series of events, with associated vehicle access. Some proposals from the Lambeth Events team would even undermine the business plan for the Hall!

Overall, it was felt that the Events team were still pushing for more commercial events than the park could sustain. Stakeholders would accept 3 weekend events in a row in June/ July - provided that included the Lambeth Country Show weekend and a single set-up/ take-down operation. Winter events should be limited to a couple of evenings because the grass is more vulnerable to damage.

Two funfair or circus visits a year were acceptable, but pop-up market events were resisted for their impact on other sites like the Herne Hill Market, while requiring extra cleaning.

*Alan Piper.*

# The Brixton Society

Understanding the Past, Looking to the Future

Registered Charity No.1058103, Registered with the London Forum of Amenity Societies

## Annual Report 2020-21

### INTRODUCTION

As a registered charity, we are obliged to report on certain aspects of what we did each year and how we carried them out. A consequence is that these reports seldom vary much from one year to another. However, the past year brought several changes as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and associated restrictions. Activities largely shifted from live to virtual for most of the financial year, though we seem to have come through the worst as a going concern.

### AIMS & ORGANISATION

**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 as far as Stockwell Tube Station, as well as north-east to Myatt's Fields Park, and up Brixton Hill to the South Circular Road. The Society is registered with the London Forum of Amenity Societies, Archives for London and the British Association for Local History.

**STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT:** The Society is a registered charity and an unincorporated association. The society's constitution was last revised at the 2013 AGM.

Executive Committee meetings through the financial year 2020/21 were conducted via Zoom. Apart from struggling with new technology, there has been the added complication of members being stranded at various times in Nigeria or Wales – the latter closing its border for the first time in 7 centuries.

Since August 2020 the committee has consisted of Bill Linskey (Chair), Doye Akinlade, Tracey Gregory, Diana Linskey, Vivienne Lewis, Alan Piper, Marilyn Rogers, Eileen Walkin, David Warner and Nicholas Weedon, with Ashleigh Gill, Jo Nightingale and Douglas Pineiro as co-opted members.

### PROGRAMME & ACTIVITIES

**EVENTS:** Live events were limited to running a stall at the Brixton Windmill in December, and a reduced series of guided

walks. Other regular events were in abeyance due to recurring lockdowns.

We managed to hold our September local history evening on-line, attracting a record audience of 97 for an illustrated talk by Edmund Bird, now TfL Heritage Adviser, on the work of Edward Hollamby as Lambeth's Borough Architect between 1964 and 1980.



IMG9583.jpg

**PLANNING & REGENERATION:** We share oversight of a high volume of local planning applications amongst our "virtual" planning sub-committee. We have also liaised with campaigners over a number of local high-rise developments and the future of the Brixton Recreation Centre and International House.

We continued to keep in touch with changes to London-wide and national policies, benefitting from our involvement with the London Forum. Our comments on policy issues and planning cases are regularly posted on our website.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Sales were sustained on-line but less so for shorter pamphlets, maps and postcards, normally popular purchases in person. Longer publications take more time to appear but a couple more titles are in mind. A list of titles sold follows the main accounts.

Apart from the Spring 2020 issue, we have continued to publish a quarterly Newsletter of 12 pages. To save on postage we have been encouraging members who live further afield, or are hard to reach, to receive this digitally.

**NETWORKING:** We have kept in touch with a wide range of local groups, more particularly Brockwell Park Community Partners (the park's Management Advisory Committee), the Brixton Neighbourhood Forum, Lambeth Local History Forum,

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Friends of Lambeth Libraries, and Lambeth Parks Forum. We also try to respond to e-mail enquiries from students, media and family historians.

### **FRIENDS OF TATE LIBRARY BRIXTON:**

The Saturday morning Tai Chi sessions were curtailed by lockdown but continued on a reduced scale on-line. The Crafts group set out to create a banner for the Local Heroes celebrated in recent years but had to adapt to doing most of the work remotely, rather than coming together as first intended.

It is hoped to resume library-based talks and activities as lock-down is relaxed.

### **FRIENDS OF WINDRUSH SQUARE:**

The Friends have continued to help maintain planting within the Square and also the planters within the Library railings.

We have long supported the Friends of Tate Library and the Friends of Windrush Square, which operate as sub-committees of the Society. However we need people to come forward and help with running their activities, and perhaps even become independent groups.



Windrush Square, March 2020. IMG9469.jpg

## RESOURCES

**MEMBERSHIP:** After several years of our paid-up membership hovering around 150, excluding council contacts and kindred local groups, lockdown saw a welcome increase, probably due to our involvement in resisting high-profile new developments in our area. Numbers stood at 193 in May 2021, but we must remind members that now is the time to renew subscriptions for the year ahead.

Once again we should welcome the efforts of a number of individual members who

have provided "in kind" support over the past year, including delivering most of our newsletters, staffing events, keeping in touch with 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 2021. Thanks are due to David Warner who, after standing down as Treasurer, ensured a smooth handover to Diana Linskey.

Subscriptions were last reviewed after the 2016 AGM. In the absence of the 2020 Lambeth Country Show and other public events, the executive committee agreed to roll over existing memberships until 2021, but we are grateful to those members who were willing to pay anyway, helping us to a small surplus. *(Figures and comments appear on the following page.)*

**IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN:** So far the financial effect has been slight compared to the impact on many other local groups. Publications sales have held up, but guided walks and live appearances were much reduced.

We have tried to remain active across our range of interests, through increased reliance on e-mails, Zoom meetings, and even joining in the "Examination in Public" on the Lambeth Local Plan via Teams. We look forward to resuming activities and contacts as the prolonged restrictions are gradually eased.

## How to contact us

If you have internet access, you can contact us at [info@brixtonsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@brixtonsociety.org.uk)

For town planning issues, you can reach all our planning panel at

[planning@brixtonsociety.org.uk](mailto:planning@brixtonsociety.org.uk)

For local history enquiries, please use

[history@brixtonsociety.org.uk](mailto:history@brixtonsociety.org.uk)

For membership matters, please use

[membership@brixtonsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@brixtonsociety.org.uk)

Otherwise, write to the Secretary, Alan Piper, at 82 Mayall Road, SE24 0PJ or phone him on (020) 7207 0347 – answerphone available but no fax now.

**BRIXTON SOCIETY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 1 APRIL 2020 – 31 MARCH 2021**

	2020/2021	2019/20
<b>Receipts</b>		
Friends of Windrush Square income	£ 99.13	£ 133.04
Members' Subscriptions	£ 647.00	£1,103.00
Sale of Publications, etc	£ 705.72	£1,597.97
Donations	£ 259.20	£ 367.36
Postage	£ 154.85	£ 60.09
Bank Interest	£ 25.45	£ 26.81
Miscellaneous	£ -	£ 63.00
Tai Chi classes income/grant	£ -	£5,016.30
Friends of Tate Library income	£1,899.13	£ 473.23
Sub-Total	£3,790.48	£8,840.80
Refunds	-£ 44.20	£ -
Discounts	£ -	£ -
Ebay/Paypal fees	-£ 79.63	-£ 111.06
<b>Receipts less discounts/refunds</b>	<b>£3,666.65</b>	<b>£8,729.74</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>		
Friends of Tate Library	£1,538.88	£ 543.68
Friends of Windrush Square	£ 19.73	£ 264.00
Donations	£ -	£ 100.00
Newsletter Prod	£ 260.15	£ 373.75
Postage	£ 199.61	£ 185.48
Stationery	£ 132.84	£ 63.01
Publications - purchase	£ -	£ 11.00
Publications - printing	£ -	£ 865.00
Posters/Leaflets/Banner	£ 3.00	£ 12.32
Insurance Cost (general)	£ 75.00	£ -
Subscriptions	£ 48.00	£ 193.00
Cost of Meetings	£ -	£ 480.00
Website support	£ 130.00	£ 200.00
Equipment/Stall	£ -	£ 75.60
Events	£ 51.50	£ 100.00
Catering/Refreshments	£ -	£ 98.14
Website hosting	£ 202.74	£ 242.32
Tai Chi project	£ 735.00	£4,402.83
<b>Total Payment</b>	<b>£3,396.45</b>	<b>£8,210.13</b>

**SURPLUS**

<b>£ 270.20</b>	<b>£ 519.61</b>
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**Details of Publications Sold**

Town Trails	£ 33.00	£ 31.50
Memories	£ 79.84	£ 25.99
Windrush Square	£ 11.00	£ 9.00
Brixton - Story of a name	£ 13.00	£ 4.00
Effra - Lambeth's Underground River	£ 39.00	£ 13.50
Greeting cards	£ -	£ 9.00
Maps	£ -	£ 33.00
Postcards	£ 62.00	£ 215.50
History of Brixton	£ 249.75	£ 209.79
Brixton Market LT poster	£ -	£ 21.00
Brixton Boy WWII	£ 27.39	£ 12.45
Black British Celebration	£ 26.00	£ 247.00
Synagogue	£ 39.84	£ 14.94
Market Walk Tickets	£ 45.00	£ 195.00
Market Walk Books	£ 44.00	£ 424.00
Brixton & Stockwell in The Mirror	£ 8.40	£ 4.80
Henry Tate book	£ 20.00	£ 115.00
Brixton MPs	£ 7.50	£ 12.50
	£ 705.72	£ 1,597.97
Less Discount	£ -	£ -
	£ 705.72	£ 1,597.97

**Balance Sheet**

	2020/2021	2019/2020
Opening	£7,666.35	£7,146.74
Surplus for year	£ 270.20	£ 519.61
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£7,936.55</b>	<b>£7,666.35</b>
<b>Represented By</b>		
Current A/C	£ 573.13	£ 554.82
Deposit A/C	£7,043.82	£7,018.37
PayPal	£ 319.60	£ 93.16

**Notes to the accounts**

The Society was awarded a grant of £2000 from the GLA Culture Seeds Fund for "Local Heroes" Craft Connections to work with community members to create and produce a banner celebrating Local Heroes. £1800 has been received in this account year, with a further £200 anticipated on completion in 2021/22.

Income has been significantly impacted by the Covid pandemic restrictions. Publication sales have been limited to online sales only, mostly books, and the Lambeth Country Show, Local History Fair, and monthly market walks have not taken place. The Society took the decision not to seek subscription renewals in 2020, and whilst income was reduced £647.00 was received.

Expenditure was also impacted with savings made on room hire for Committee meetings which have been held virtually, and one less newsletter produced.

Accounts prepared by Diana Linskey, Treasurer

*Diana Linskey*

**Statement by External Examiner**

I report on the accounts of the Brixton Society for the year ended 20/2021. My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements have not been met.

Name: *Anthony Sullivan*  
 Date: *1<sup>st</sup> May 2021*

# Maundy Money

Every year, on Maundy Thursday the [Thursday before Easter Sunday], The Queen distributes special Maundy money to pensioners in a service which commemorates Jesus washing the feet of the Apostles at the Last Supper. During the service, The Queen distributes gifts according to the number of years she has lived: for example, this year, Her Majesty will be 95, and so The Queen has distributed 95 pence worth of Maundy money to 95 men and 95 women in recognition for their contribution to community and to the church.

The service dates back to 600AD and these special coins have kept much the same form since 1670. They still bear the portrait of Her Majesty designed for her coronation in 1953, even though the image on ordinary circulating coinage has since been changed four times. Each recipient of Maundy money is given two small leather purses by The Queen, one red and one white. The first contains a small amount of ordinary coinage which symbolises the Sovereign's gift for food and clothing. This year the coins are specially created to commemorate Her Majesty's 95th Birthday, and the 50th anniversary of Decimal Day. The second purse contains Maundy coins up to the value of the Sovereign's age. The coins are legal tender but recipients normally prefer to retain them as a keepsake.

Given the current circumstances, the Royal Maundy Service 2021 could not go ahead this year. Instead the Maundy money was blessed at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, before being posted to recipients alongside a letter from The Queen.

Extracted from [www.royal.uk/maundy-thursday](http://www.royal.uk/maundy-thursday)

The word "maundy" derives from a passage in the Bible: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

John 13:34 in the Authorised Version.

The Latin for a commandment is *mandatum*, from which we get the word mandate and maundy is derived. Giving alms to the poor was seen as a way of following this commandment, which was the origin of the maundy gifts.

Today they are given to people in recognition of service to their churches or communities.



This year, one of the recipients was Eileen Walkin, a long -serving member of the Brixton Society Committee.



*Eileen and her two purses of maundy money*

## Looking Beyond Brixton

### London Open House 2021

London's annual opening-up of historic and innovative buildings marks its 30<sup>th</sup> year in September. This year it will be a little earlier in the month than we have become used to, with a spread of dates between Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September to allow more venues to take part over 2 weekends.

Buildings and guided walks were still being signed up last month, so it will be more vital than ever to check what is on offer (and when) via the London Open House website:

[www.openhouselondon.org.uk](http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk)

Over the years, several of our members have volunteered as guides or stewards at various Open House sites, and not just those around Brixton, as Marilyn Rogers reports below...

### The Old Royal Naval College - a personal history

Although not in Lambeth the Old Royal Naval College site has some Lambeth connections, apart from my own study there.

After studying for an MA at the University of Greenwich in Museum, Arts and Heritage as a mature student in 2006, I was asked to help on Open House days, specifically in the Queen Ann and Queen Mary Courts. As a result of this, I discovered other unexpected places within the complex, and found out how the site, the finest piece of Baroque English Architecture and a World Heritage site, came into the hands of the University of Greenwich.

For example: the old Devonport Mausoleum of Greenwich hospital, former burial ground of the original Royal Naval Hospital for Seamen, whose most famous inhabitants were Sir Thomas Hardy, Nelson's flag captain on the 'Victory, and Admiral Hood, both governors of the hospital. The Dreadnought Library of the University of Greenwich houses many of the insignia from ships of the fleet.

Another hidden treasure is the under-croft of Queen Ann Court, which still retains brickwork from the Jacobean period (1603 onwards). More recent building works under car parks have revealed further treasures.

In Queen Ann Court, the ground floor corner room, now the Vice Chancellor's office overlooking the river, was where Admiral Bing, Vice admiral of the fleet, was incarcerated in 1757, awaiting his trial. His execution by firing squad took place later in Portsmouth.

Queen Anne court was also used to house Nelson's coffin. His body had been brought

back to London after the battle of Trafalgar, preserved in a barrel of brandy.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, during the Royal Naval College's occupation of the site, the same room was used for disciplinary hearings, but more recently used in an episode of 'The Apprentice' when Lord Sugar uses the same room as a venue to shout: 'You're Fired' to one of his apprentices.

Of course, guided visits are regularly run with ORNC (Old Royal Naval College) guides who are often ex-Wrens or other ex-naval staff. However, part of the contract stipulation for the University's lease was to give access to the public to the refurbished buildings at the Open House weekends.

The guide notes for our tours were compiled by a fellow MA student, Alison Lawrence who is a keen re-enactor as well as being Assistant facilities officer for the university until the mid-2000's.

Many of these guides are lecturers, plus an ex-University Librarian Margaret Friday, who often dresses in Jayne Austen style for her tours. These notes are based on historical research plus information from the re-design of the University buildings. This new restoration was undertaken by Dannatt Johnstone Associates.



Grand Square, July 2021 IMG9905.jpg

Over the succeeding years, I learnt more about the buildings from personal research and my own interest in the work of [Eleanor Coade](#), owner of the pottery producing [Coade Stone](#) on the site of County Hall.

At Greenwich its use included the '[Death of Nelson Pediment](#)', King William Court, and the sculptures by Benjamin West in the chapel.

A muralist friend, Colin Failes also studied with me at the RA, and he gave lectures on Sir James Thornhill, muralist of the [Painted Hall Greenwich](#), so I gained more in-depth information about the site. Before his death in April, Colin told me of his work on the [Armada Tapestries](#) restoration for the House of Lords. His restored Trompe L'oeil work at the [Vintners Hall](#), 'View across the Thames' was to be open in 2020, but due to Covid, the viewing

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was cancelled. Colin was a great local history enthusiast and in 2019 did a local walk for his friends from Denmark Hill, via Ruskin Park and Brockwell Park, then following the Effra to Brixton Market.

I find that, as always when you think you know the history of the building, personal knowledge and research helps.

I like to also add the more 'popular' information including for example, which films have used the setting, which range from: *Four Feathers*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Skyfall* to *Les Misérables*.

Other guides at the Greenwich site may add more historical facts about Queens and Kings, or architects involved with the site, such as Christopher Wren.

The design of the main four-building complex at Greenwich began in 1695 with the appointment of Christopher Wren as surveyor to convert the palace into a hospital. He was assisted by Nicholas Hawksmoor who became Clerk of Works from 1698. Sir John Vanbrugh was a member of the Board of Directors from 1703 and became surveyor after Wren in 1716, then Colen Campbell in 1726 and later Thomas Ripley in 1829.

I hope we all get to visit these unexpected places at this 2021 [Open House Festival](#), to see those places not usually open to the public.

*Marilyn Rogers*

### **Wish you were here 151 years of the British Postcard**

News has been trickling in from various museums, especially about re-scheduled or new exhibitions and events.

This temporary exhibition at the **Postal Museum** will run until 2<sup>nd</sup> January. British postcards first appeared in 1870, but surged in popularity in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when space for a brief message was provided on the back, alongside the delivery address. A cheaper postage rate and typically 4 deliveries a day really helped too, before the First World War. Later, the Great British Seaside became the mainstay of postcard publishers.

The exhibition is included with entry to the Postal Museum, together with a ride on Mail Rail, the Post Office's former underground railway. For tickets/ bookings, see <https://www.postalmuseum.org/visit-us/>

### **Southwark Heritage Centre**

You may need to refer to Southwark sources if researching buildings or ancestors around Lambeth's irregular and changeable eastern boundary. Nowadays they are co-located with Walworth Library at 147 Walworth Road SE17, including a small exhibition gallery on the Story of Southwark. To check current opening times etc., see <https://heritage.southwark.gov.uk/>

### **Advocate of Greener Travel Alastair Hanton, OBE, 1926-2021**

A Dulwich resident for some 60 years, Alastair died on 26 May, aged 94. While much of his Guardian obituary was devoted to his work in setting up and developing the National Girobank between 1968 and 1986, for which he received an OBE on his retirement, he was better known across London for his work with a variety of campaigning organisations.

On retirement, Alastair became a trustee, and later vice-chair, of Christian Aid, which led him to join with other groups in setting up the Fair Trade Foundation in 1992, of which he became Chair.

His passion for cycling, walking and greener transport generally began when his school was evacuated to Cumbria during the Second World War. He and his brother would cycle back home to London for the holidays. He supported and sometimes led, numerous campaign groups, including Living Streets, the London Cycling Campaign, Airport Watch, Campaign for Better Transport, and the Foundation for Integrated Transport. For many years he chaired the Dulwich Society's Traffic & Transport sub-committee, and he oversaw the amalgamation of transport campaign groups into the London Forum of Amenity Societies. A more practical "green" interest came from owning a small wood – known to his friends simply as "Alastair's Wood" - in the depths of the Sussex Weald.

*Based on the Guardian obituary, published on 11 June, additional detail from Alan Piper.*

### **Museum of the Home**

Originally carved out of the Geffrye Almshouses on Kingsland Road, since 2018 the museum has been much expanded and reversed to face Hoxton Station on the London Overground. An Afro-Caribbean living room c.1976 has been added to their historic room settings. Admission still free but please book in advance - see <https://www.museumofthehome.org.uk>

### Access to Coronavirus Vaccination & Testing

Details of local clinic sessions have been arriving with too little notice to spread the word widely, so it may be more helpful if we share details of where to find out for yourself.

First, you can use **Twitter** and follow either @nhslambethccg or @LambethTogether for breaking news on walk-in vaccination sites and other health news. For walk-in vaccination sites you do not need proof of address, NHS number or immigration status.

The site at Montgomery Hall (between the Oval and the Tube Station) is now operating 7 days a week, but mainly for the over 40s. Day Lewis Pharmacy at 110 Brixton Hill also offers a 7-day service for over 40s, though shorter hours at weekends. Sessions continue at the Streatham Place Surgery on the South Circular Road, for the over 18s, Tuesdays and Wednesdays with the Pfizer vaccine, Fridays with the AstraZeneca version.

It's worth checking with your own GP or local pharmacy, but more walk-in vaccination clinics are being added at local pharmacies, and the Lambeth Health & Wellbeing bus is appearing around the area to fill gaps – for details, see [www.selondonccg.nhs.uk/popupclinics](http://www.selondonccg.nhs.uk/popupclinics)

**Testing:** If you are meeting people outside your household, but not yet received a second jab, you should aim to take a rapid test twice a week. The mobile testing unit is still active on Windrush Square, or you can visit a local pharmacy, or order test kits online from [www.lambeth.gov.uk/covidcommunitytest](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/covidcommunitytest)

If you have symptoms, or have tested positive, Lambeth Council may be able to offer support while you self-isolate for 10 days – enquiries to 0800 054 1215.

### Diversity among Magistrates

London needs another 250 magistrates, and efforts are being made to recruit more from ethnic minorities, younger age groups and working-class backgrounds. Join a Teams session on Thursday **22 July** to find out more: book via [sara.brown.jp@judiciary.net](mailto:sara.brown.jp@judiciary.net) or [rosi.prescott@gmail.com](mailto:rosi.prescott@gmail.com)

### Artist Commission

#### For Participatory Workshops and a Public Artwork - bid by 25 July

**81 Acts of Exuberant Defiance** want to commission an artist to lead a series of creative workshops with the residents of Hurst Street Estate, behind the 198 Gallery on Railton Road. The workshops will lead to a public artwork or mural, and possibly a pop-up exhibition in a local green space, contingent on further funding. Selection is managed by the Brixton Project, working with 81 Acts. Further details from [hello@thebrixtonproject.com](mailto:hello@thebrixtonproject.com)

To apply, e-mail by 25 July to [apply@thebrixtonproject.com](mailto:apply@thebrixtonproject.com) with a completed application form and a portfolio of your work.

#### Please donate to complete 198 Gallery's new youth space

Though the extension was finished on time and on budget, grants to fit it out have dried up because most funders have focussed on the coronavirus crisis. 198 Gallery has launched a Crowdfunder drive to attract donations to bring the new floorspace into use – with a reminder to add GiftAid too - see <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/help-to-complete-the-amazing-new198cal-youth-space>

### Events at Longfield Hall

Performances have resumed, but please book in advance due to ongoing Covid restrictions: see [www.longfieldhall.org.uk](http://www.longfieldhall.org.uk)

**As You Like It** presented by Open Bar Theatre, Saturday 24 July at 2 pm or 7 pm in the Quiet Garden, Myatt's Fields Park.

**People Power in the Park**, re-creating the history of the park, Monday 26 July at 7 pm in Longfield Hall, or Thursday 29 July in the Quiet Garden in the park (no booking needed for 29<sup>th</sup> but bring your own chair or picnic blanket).

**Emma Jungling & Youjin Kim Recital** on Thursday 26 August at 7-30 pm in the hall, favourite opera arias, Debussy songs, musical theatre, and cabaret.