

THE BRIXTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

New Year issue, January 2022

No.244, published quarterly,
Distributed free to members.

Registered with the London Forum of Amenity Societies, Registered charity no. 1058103,
website: www.brixtonsociety.org.uk

The Year Ahead

You will find a number of dates and event details in this issue, but once again there is more uncertainty than usual as Coronavirus infections hit a new peak. Without a steer from Central Government, many have adopted a voluntary scaling-back of social contact. As we said a year ago, forward planning is more difficult, but now with more familiarity with Zoom and other digital technology, and rising vaccination rates, we are finding ways to carry on.

Based on last year's experience, we should be able to provide some guided walks for the summer months, as part of the annual programme published by the Lambeth Local History Forum. Once again we will ask you to reserve places in advance, so we can control numbers (or take the day off if nobody is going to turn up!). If there are neglected corners that we should explore, or if you would like us to repeat a walk that you missed in the past year or two, tell us before the end of this month, at info@brixtonsociety.org.uk

In case plans have to change – or if new opportunities crop up – it helps if we have a current e-mail address for each member. This is also the time when we do a final edit of our mailing list, so if you have not renewed your membership subscription during 2021, this is your final reminder – see our website if you do not find a renewal form enclosed with this newsletter.

Alan Piper.



Brian Barnes painted the “Nuclear Dawn” mural on the side of Carlton Mansions some 40 years ago. It was recently restored in readiness for the opening of the adjacent Brixton House Theatre on Coldharbour Lane. See page 4. (HP/P/IMG0127.jpg)

Hidden Brixton Mapped

If you receive a paper copy of this newsletter, you should also receive a **Hidden Brixton** map, highlighting 50 buildings and features around Brixton. This has been compiled over the past couple of years, and is one of the last elements of the Brixton Townscape Heritage Initiative, which comes to a close in March. If you have already had a copy through your letterbox, or you picked one up at Small Business Saturday last month, please offer a spare copy to a friend, because the point is to share awareness of our diverse built heritage more widely. We can also forward a file to digital readers on request, though it doesn't look quite as good on a mobile phone!

Diary of Events – Early 2022

Committee Dates

Our Executive Committee meets monthly, on the second Thursday, to plan activities and agree our response to current issues.

For the next few months, meetings will be on-line via Zoom. These meetings are still open to any of our members, but if you want to join in or to raise a specific issue, please contact the Chair a week beforehand at chair@brixtonsociety.org.uk

- 13 January
- 10 February
- 10 March
- 14 April (venue tbc)

Walks & Talks

Our **Market Walks** remain suspended while Covid infection rates remain high, but we are keeping the situation under review. We may be able to offer tailored walks for visiting parties.

We welcome ideas for other guided walks and talks (live or on-line) from April onwards.

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 (before 21 December) to the Secretary, Alan Piper, 82 Mayall Road, SE24 0PJ, or by e-mail to info@brixtonsociety.org.uk

Events arranged by other groups

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

Local History Unlocked

Another series of on-line talks is taking place on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm – please book via Eventbrite or Lambeth Archives if you are not already on the contact list from previous series.



DL/2018-011.jpg

20 January – Tulse Hill

by Alan Piper, in case you missed the live version in September.

17 February – Clapham in the Second World War

by Alyson Wilson.

17 March – Brixton's

Windmill by Jean Kerrigan, Friends of Windmill Gardens *Lambeth Archives*.

Loughborough Junction Action Group

The Platform Café

The café at 2 Ridgeway Road is open normally for the time being, but will close for refurbishment in **March**. In the meantime, **Tea and Tech** sessions resume at the café on Thursday mornings, 10 am to 12 pm. Drop in for free support and advice on any devices.

Enquiries to info@clearcommunityweb.co.uk or phone 07 523 646 277 or just drop by.

Loughborough Farm

on Loughborough Road (opposite Wyck Gardens): Farm markets will resume in March, ready for Spring planting, but you may still find some plants for sale on Tuesdays and Saturdays, between 2 and 3 pm.

Wyck Forest Garden

All welcome for orcharding activities – sessions resume in February, normally the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, 1-30 to 4-30 pm.

The Brixton Riots:

Policing the Black Community in the past 40 years, Thursday 3 Feb.

6 pm online or at Barnards Hall, Holborn EC1. Talk by Professor Leslie Thomas, one of the free hybrid history lectures from Gresham College. Register at <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/brixton-riots> or for others in the series, see <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/attend>

Local History Events

Other groups within the Lambeth Local History Forum will occasionally post details of their talks or events on the LLHF website at www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk

Review of Autumn Events

Guided Walks

In addition to the Heritage Festival events during September, our secretary assisted with a Brixton tour for the Architecture Foundation and Open City on Sunday 12 September.



DNardi/IMG-7.jpg

Remembrance Sunday

For many years, a wreath has been laid on behalf of the Society on Remembrance Sunday, originally at the Stockwell War Memorial, but in recent years at the Afro-Caribbean War Memorial on Windrush Square.



Annick Alet lays our wreath. M.Rogers/WA04.jpg

Visit to Van Gogh House, 25 November



P.Steele/VGH-int.jpg



Rear of the Van Gogh House at 87 Hackford Road, with modern kitchen added at rear. HP/P/0104.jpg

This was arranged at fairly short notice and we realise a weekday visit doesn't suit everyone. Sadly if you missed this you will have to wait until next Autumn, because in the earlier months of the year, the house is used by artists in residence.

Christmas Fair in Windmill Gardens



HP/P/IMG0121.jpg

Our first opportunity to sell our publications over the counter since the Local History Fair at St. Mark's on 4th September. Business was brisk and we sold out of the Local Heroes tea towels. Sales totalled £174, of which £125 was by card payments. Our thanks to Vivienne Lewis, Helene Faure, Ashleigh Gill (above) and Marilyn Rogers for staffing the stall.

Obituaries

Brian Barnes, MBE 1944-2021



Photo from Vivienne Lewis (131509-5697.jpg)

Brian Barnes MBE, who died in November 2021, was a magnificent artist, responsible for two of Lambeth's best loved murals – Nuclear Dawn in Coldharbour Lane and on the air raid shelter beside the War Memorial at Stockwell.

For the last 45 years Brian had been leaving his artistic touch on derelict industrial buildings and housing estates across South London. He first gained recognition in 1976 for his 267-foot long mural, The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, on the wall of the huge Morgan Crucibles factory near to Battersea Power Station, sadly demolished in 1979. Undeterred, Brian produced many other fantastic murals, all immediately recognisable by their bright colour palette, his pacifist social commentary and his references to local people.

Perhaps the best-known of his Lambeth murals is Nuclear Dawn on the wall of Carlton Mansions in Coldharbour Lane. This mural, designed by Brian with Dale McCrea and begun in 1980 at the height of the Cruise Missile crisis, shows the angel of death dominating a London landscape with a cluster of politicians (including a recognisable Margaret Thatcher) cowering below the Houses of Parliament. In late 2021 the mural, which had faded and been defaced by local graffiti "artists", was restored, as part of the plan to bring the Brixton House Theatre to the town centre - a fitting tribute to Brian.

My personal favourite, however, is the one on the former roundabout next to Stockwell underground station. Painted on the entrance structure of the deep air raid shelter, the mural includes greyed-out black and white images of troops going over the top, superimposed on a

vibrant sea of poppies, as well as images of well-known local residents, including Violette Szabo, Roger Moore (the first James Bond actor), Vincent Van Gogh and (at the top of the mural) an image of the MV Empire Windrush.

Vivienne Lewis.

Owen Luder, PPRIBA 1928-2021

Owen Luder grew up around the Old Kent Road and began his career path at 13 with a scholarship to a 3-year general course at the Brixton School of Building, and later evening classes at the Regent Street Poly. He set up his own practice at the age of 28 and early works included a series of ladies' hairdressing salons and a pair of houses in Herne Hill Road. Larger commercial projects followed around the country through the 1960s in the newly-fashionable Brutalist style, though few have survived. Overseas projects in the 1970s included Nigeria's national stadium in Abuja.

Defying the architectural establishment, he was twice elected president of the RIBA, in 1981 and 1995. From 1975 a resident of Dulwich Village, in his later years he lived in Carmarthenshire until his death in October at the age of 93.

Alan Piper.



336 Brixton Road was originally designed by Owen Luder as a computer centre for Coutts Bank. See also page 7. (P/IMG0125.jpg)

Planning Review

A Major Commitment

Over the past few months, planning, transport and regeneration matters seemed to take up more time than usual. Planning applications are usually responded to within a few weeks, but some sites trouble us for years while the developers appeal or redesign as they try to fit in excessive or incompatible uses. Updates on a few of those are included below.

And then there are the planning policies or frameworks by which the Government, Mayor and local Council try to impose their competing frameworks on developers' proposals, whether for apartment towers, coffee shops or garden sheds (the latter more likely now to be a home office!). These plans move even more slowly, typically too late to cope with changing times or ambitious developers, but we persist in pushing for them to address the real issues.

The Brixton Rec Quarter

It's confusing that there are several projects around the Recreation Centre. One proposal for turning disused space below the Rec into workspace was given permission a couple of months ago. Another, for improving access and renewing the shopfronts along Brixton Station Road, should be approved shortly.

The big one though is Lambeth's imminent selection of a developer for both the Pop Brixton site and for International House. Of the two finalists, one is amenable to keeping International House in a similar workspace role to its present use, while the other is likely to just build what the Council has asked for and move on.

Hondo Towers, Pope's Road

In this case, the imminent decision is due from the Mayor. This was expected when we published the last newsletter, but Hondo made a late upgrade to the training part of their offer, so the timetable was reset for another round of comments.

The pause provided the opportunity for new and stronger objections from **Historic England**, the **Victorian Society** and the **Fight The Tower Campaign**. Meanwhile, we picked apart the "enhanced" training element, which

turned out not to be within Hondo's powers, and highlighted the mismatch between their old-fashioned office tower plans and actual local needs for flexible workspace. *You can check out our comments on this and other planning applications on our website.*



Flats under construction on the site of Olive Morris House, Brixton Hill. (IMG.0090.jpg)

Olive Morris House - complaints upheld by Ombudsman

Our comments on planning applications tend to focus on the long-term effects and loss of existing assets, but the building process itself can bring its own problems.

As the final piece of the "New Town Hall" deal negotiated between Muse and Lambeth Council, Olive Morris House, their former offices on Brixton Hill, were demolished and are now being replaced by a new apartment block. Flanked by Effra Court and Brixton Hill Court, and with houses to the rear in Beverstone Road, demolishing this modern building and erecting a new one have been an extended nightmare for residents.

Planning Review

Leon Kreitzman reports below on how the Local Government Ombudsman ruled on residents' complaints:

Local Government Ombudsman slams Lambeth Council for failing residents.

The Local Government Ombudsman has found that Lambeth Council failed to listen to the concerns of its residents and failed to act on them. As a result, residents living near abuilding project on Brixton Hill, in which the Council itself is a development partner, suffered avoidable distress and worry. Work on the Olive Morris House site began on 20 April 2020, a few weeks after the start of the first lockdown. Soon after, residents were complaining of noise, dust, trucks reversing along residential roads, vibration and a general compliance with the agreed set of guidelines, the CEMP or Construction Environmental Management Plan, which was supposed to be overseen by the Council. Instead of listening to the residents' complaints and acting upon them, a senior Lambeth officer was claiming that the development was conforming to best practice and went beyond what was being asked.

The LGO found "fault by the Council causing injustice" and has demanded that the Council apologises and pays asymbolic amount of compensation to the resident who brought the complaint. This is a serious finding and should cause Lambeth Councillors, who took far too long to respond to the complaints, to reflect on their relationship with property development companies.

The development on the site of Olive Morris House is the last part of the controversial Your New Town Hall project, which has cost Lambeth Council unrevealed millions in return for a refurbished town hall, fancy new offices, so-called affordable homes and a handful of social housing units. Lambeth Archives gets a new home because there were no takers for what were intended to be ground floor retail units. In return the development partner Muse gets lots of new luxury flats to sell.

The LGO report refers only to the period April-November 2020. Since then, residents have had to endure Saturday working (despite

explicit commitments by the Council that this would not happen), continual disregard of the approved traffic movement routes, vibration damage to several properties, and continual noise. All this while enduring lockdowns and the corrosive effects of the pandemic. The LGO will now be asked to investigate these events.

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Lambeth Council has trialled a series of these LTNs around the borough, and we have been sending in comments on those within our area. The Ferndale LTN is expected to open for public comments shortly, while another is still being set up west of Brixton Hill. This already has long-standing access restrictions between Acre Lane and Blenheim Gardens, but is now likely to extend to the roads south and west of Brixton Prison.

The existing LTNs have already generated a lot of comments, for and against, for example:

"As a member of the Brixton Society, and a Brixton resident for over 30 years, I was disappointed to read the Society's submission to the consultation on the Railton Road LTN. My understanding is that the Brixton Society is an amenity society, which conventionally focus on conservation and planning questions. The historic streets of Brixton predate the motor era, and from a conservation viewpoint, surely minimising motor traffic, and for that matter, on-street car storage, would feel the society's natural position. I'm not clear as a member how views were gathered or evaluated – I don't remember being asked, or being given a chance to comment on the proposed submission. It seems the issues reported as 'contentious features' are the result of individual lobbying rather than any balanced view.

The submission is also factually incorrect in a number of places. It's completely false to say that the northern arm of Shakespeare Road is 'cut off entirely' as there are no changes to access if on foot or cycle or using public transport. Nor for that matter are any areas unreachable by car – it's simply that a different route must be taken. Equally, it is completely false to say that it is not possible to transport

Planning Review

bulky items between Saltoun Road and Mayall Road. But more significantly, how often is that journey necessary with items that could not be carried in, say, a shopping trolley? In any case, would a single person's occasional inconvenience justify compromising a scheme that benefits many?

In short, this submission seems outside the scope of the Society's purposes and cannot be said to be representative of members' views. The wider comments on cycling and pedestrians don't seem to show an awareness of the Lambeth Transport Strategy of which the Railton LTN is just a part. If individual members do have concerns about issues like pavement cycling or personal safety, these would be better made as personal submissions to the consultation, rather than via the Society.

Simon Still.

Alan Piper responds:

We are broadly supportive of the LTN concept, but the devil is in the details, as they say, and sometimes we have to point out when the emperor has no clothes. It remains a concern that there have been few tangible benefits for pedestrians so far, and even a few examples of movement on foot becoming more difficult.

We tried to take on board that the Railton LTN has been modified since the original launch, as noted in our newsletter a year ago. One effect of these changes is that your suggested car route from my house in Mayall Road to the Vida Walsh Centre works well enough in that direction, but it is no longer possible to return because southbound access is blocked via Railton, Rattray and Dalberg Roads. Hence a return journey would have to join the increased traffic on Effra Road.

In practice, most of our events can be covered with support from an old-style shopping trolley, but there are times when the kit is too bulky or heavy and a car or van is the only option.

When we invited comments in our July issue, we noted, not only the polarisation of opinion between motorists and cyclists, but that they tended to argue in separate echo chambers, with little real exchange of ideas. Though we encouraged our members to feed in comments to the Council, with hindsight we should have

reminded you all more strongly to tell us too. Indeed it's vital for all the issues that come up that you tell us your views – don't leave it just to your committee to think up responses.

Planning Blight is Back!

Lambeth has added several development sites to the Lambeth Local Plan through its draft **Site Allocations document**. This is now open for comments, until **21 February**. The sites within our catchment area are listed below:

330-336 Brixton Road (site 17): a planning brief to encourage intensification.

Tesco, 13 Acre Lane (site 20): a planning brief to enable residential development above the supermarket and car park, on similar lines to Sainsburys next to Nine Elms tube station.

51-65 Effra Road (site 21): Also envisages development over retail car parks of Currys and Halfords, and threatens Mosaic Clubhouse and the Unitarian Church.

Loughborough Junction, Hardess/ Wellfit Streets (site 22): Proposes a planning brief where recent high-rise towers were refused.

Loughborough Junction, corner of Coldharbour Lane/ Herne Hill Road (site 23): essentially the church site facing the station entrance. The industrial estate to the rear is already being replaced by new flats.

NB: For Somerleyton Road (site 14), Popes Road (site 15), and Brixton Central/ Pop Brixton (site 16), the planning framework is unchanged.

London Plan Guidance

The Greater London Authority is now busy publishing guidance on aspects of the London Plan which was adopted last year. Urban Greening and Sustainable Transport have already passed, but more topics are in the pipeline for public comments.

The draft guidance on Air Quality is open for comments until **27 February**. Refer to <https://consult.london.gov.uk/air-quality-neutral> and share your views with us.

Compiled by Alan Piper.

Green Issues, Green Spaces

Where do we go from here?

In our Autumn newsletter, we reported the outcome of Lambeth's Climate Assembly, but we are still awaiting any decisive policy moves by the Council. While there are some public gestures like reviving the Biodiversity Action Plan and installing a ground-source heat pump for the restoration of Brockwell Hall, it's still largely business as usual. Lambeth continues to welcome unsustainable high-rise high-density developments with only token green-washing. The Eco-Housing Group set up by Transition Town Brixton has already identified that Lambeth's ambitious plan to replace several housing estates will only add 150 council-rent homes and take 20 years to achieve it. Instead, it has called for more priority and expertise for upgrading existing homes to help residents reduce their energy bills.

News from Brockwell Park

Lottery funding for the refurbishment of **Brockwell Hall** was approved last March, but plans have developed slowly. Work should start first behind Norwood Lodge, to create a new depot area, to free up the yard between the Hall and the old stable block. In the meantime, excavations near the Hall for the ground-source heat pump pipework should be completed in March.

Brockwell Folly is perhaps appropriate as a title for Lambeth Events Team's proposal to promote the old temple building by the walled garden as an events venue. Reservations were expressed at the Management Advisory Committee over vehicle access, impact on the adjacent garden and toilets, and potential diversion of business from the Hall, whose hire for functions is a key part of the business plan.

Not far away, the disused **bowling green** is likely to be replaced by a Futsal/ 5-a-side pitch and some outdoor exercise equipment, with less enthusiasm for a "junior" skateboard rink. The St. Matthew's Football Project would like to refurbish the adjacent bowls club pavilion, if funds can be found.

With rising interest in evening activities on sites within the park, provision of **lighting** on routes out of the park will be discussed at the

next quarterly MAC meeting, so we would like to hear your comments soon.

The number of **Events** in the park – big commercial ones in particular – is always contentious. At least our councillors are currently resisting pressure from Lambeth Events Team for more and bigger events. There may be limits to commercial interest anyway – there were no bidders for a proposed pre-Christmas event on the old pitches below the BMX track.

Fortunately just before Christmas, Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses sent us the link to a briefing on what's proposed for this Summer. In fact, Mighty Hoopla have been selling tickets for nearly 2 months now. In summary, 23% of the park area will be taken up for a series of events between Friday 27 May and Sunday 5th June, with lesser areas needed for setting up before and taking down afterwards.

Wide Awake is the first ticketed event, on Friday 27 and Saturday 28, followed by City Splash with a Reggae/ garage theme on Sunday 29 May. The following 3 days will be (free) community events, then back to ticketed events for Mad-stock on Thursday 2nd, headlined by Madness. Mighty Hoopla follows with its LGBTQ+ theme on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th and finally, Cross the Tracks on Sunday 5th.

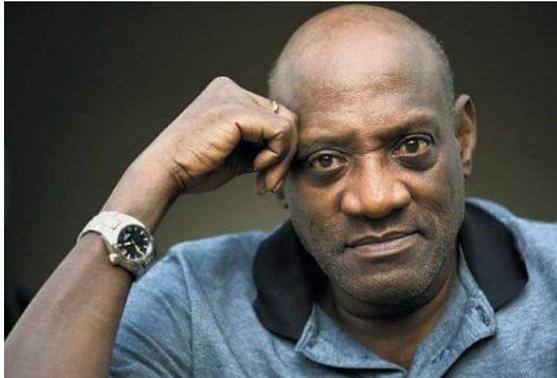
Arrangements for the **Lambeth Country Show** will be separate, and its dates have yet to be confirmed.

Alan Piper.

Improving Loughborough Park

We hear from Friends of Loughborough Park that gradual progress is being made to overcome years of neglect and make this small open space more attractive. One ambition is to revive what was once a walled garden. The walls were taken down years ago to discourage drug users, and the planting has degenerated to what's now called the gravel garden. The Friends are launching a National Lottery funded project with Urban Canopy to turn this into a forest garden. Enquiries to: friendsofloughboroughpark@gmail.com

Plaque for Darcus Howe



K/IMG-DH-20170402.jpg



IMG.0142.jpg

The latest local plaque to be installed by the Nubian Jak Foundation was unveiled on 4th January. Mounted on the flank of the Brixton Advice Centre at 165 Railton Road, it is to commemorate black activist and broadcaster Darcus Howe, who died in 2017. Between 1973 and 1988, No.165 was the base from which he published *Race Today* magazine.

Over a hundred people turned out in the cold to see the plaque unveiled by his widow, Leila Howe, assisted by his granddaughter Kaiya. The plaque now sits alongside an official blue plaque to his great-uncle, CLR James, which had been unveiled in 2004.

Which St. Gabriel's College?

There was some confusion recently when Historic England were compiling their list of Buildings At Risk. The name of St. Gabriel's College has been attached to 3 different buildings over the years. The original was a teacher training college on Cormont Road, founded in 1899, but long since converted to residential apartments. The current version is a recently-rebuilt secondary school nearby in Langton Road. However it turns out that the

building in question is a classic London School Board block, next to the original college. It has had several names since it was opened in 1898, including Kennington Boys School (when first listed) and latterly as part of Charles Edward Brooke Girls School. Similar blocks have been successfully converted to apartments but with so much residential development in the wider area, there may still be a need for school space.

Loughborough Road follow-up

Tracey Gregory's talk on the road's history, which she gave on Zoom in November, is now available on YouTube – watch it at <https://youtu.be/jzVTXDRnDBg>

A memorial plaque to orchid artist Nelly Roberts is being unveiled at Lambeth Cemetery in Tooting on **Saturday 2nd April**. This will be at the conclusion of a guided walk based on Tooting's own horticultural connections, led by Geoff Simmons of the Summerstown 182 Project. The walk starts from the King Edward VII statue at Tooting Broadway, SW17, at 2 pm.

Disappearing Pubs

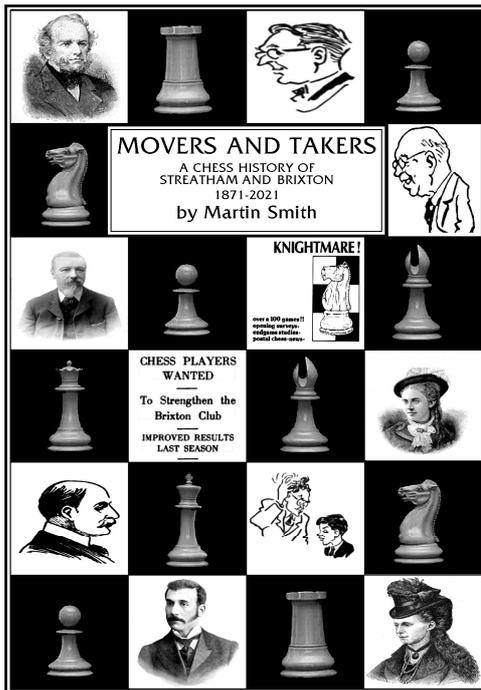
The Normandy, in Normandy Road opposite the Cowley Estate, has been standing empty for some years. A while ago, the upper floors were converted to residential use but an application to use the ground floor as a nursery was strangely refused. An application by Jerry Knight of Lexadon to convert the ground floor to a 3-bedroom flat was approved just before Christmas. We always regret the loss of a pub but it's doubtful if such a small one on a quiet street could have been viable.

Nationally, the Morning Advertiser announced the loss of 444 pubs during 2021, continuing a trend with a total of 2277 closed or converted over the past 4 years.

Layers of London upgraded

In November, the Layers of London website migrated to a new mapping platform called Humap. Log-in arrangements and content are unchanged but more functions have been added – find it at www.layersoflondon.org or enquiries to layersoflondon@london.ac.uk

Publications News



Movers and Takers

What is now the Brixton and Streatham Chess Club traces its origins back to 1871, when a Brixton Chess Club formed at the Christ Church Institute in North Brixton, some 30 years before the present church was consecrated. The Streatham Chess Club was a little slower, starting in 1890 at the White Lion in Streatham High Road. As Brixton grew, its chess club moved south to more central locations, including 322 Brixton Road in 1887-90 and at 1-3 Effra Road (the former Brixton Liberal Club, now the Black Cultural Archives) in 1899-1909. Eventually the two clubs amalgamated in 1946.

Martin Smith has not only recorded the clubs' successes and struggles, but also some of the personalities involved - the talented players and the more colourful characters who played a part in club life. The book has been produced with assistance from John Brown and is on sale from the Streatham Society for £12.50. See <http://streathamchess.org>

The Work Experience Revolution

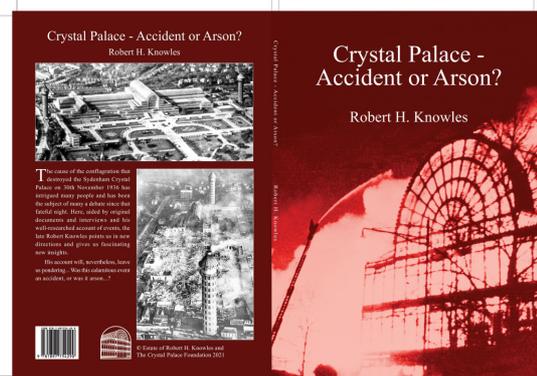
This book is an invitation to collaborate in a revolution in how we develop young people. It tells the story of WeRise, an award-winning

Brixton-based social enterprise, written by its founder, Abigail Melville.

WeRise is tackling social disadvantage by spearheading a revolution in work experience for young people. Work experience and professional contacts are crucial to future success, yet they depend on social connections that many young people do not have.

WeRise has developed a model of work experience that reflects the 21st century rather than the 19th. The ethos is to prepare young people by inviting them into the world and involving them in creating it.

Published by WeRise, paperback, 163 pages, £8.99, or via Amazon Kindle: see <https://lnkd.in/gsdd5fwh> or enquiries to: hello@werise.org.uk



Crystal Palace – Accident or Arson?

The cause of the fire that destroyed the Crystal Palace in November 1936 has been the subject of much speculation. Robert Knowles reviewed original documents and interviewed key witnesses to provide new insights. Extra information has been added posthumously since he first compiled the book.

Published by the Crystal Palace Foundation, paperback, 124 pages, £12.99, order from www.crystalpalacefoundation.org.uk

Are there other books out there with a local angle? Would you like to contribute a review or recommendation?

Alan Piper.

Beyond Brixton

Going Underground

First, a reminder that from Saturday 15 January, the **Northern Line** will be closed between Kennington and Moorgate, to enable major improvements to be carried out to Bank station. Until at least mid-May, Northbound trains will all run via Waterloo and Charing Cross.

The Underground network has seen many changes over the years, and the **London Transport Museum** in Covent Garden has extended its Hidden London exhibition until 2023. This highlights the various “abandoned” Underground stations, or parts of stations. The exhibition runs alongside a series of **virtual tours** of some of these stations, via a Zoom call, in groups of 25-50 people. Find more details at www.ltmuseum.co.uk or book via bookings@ltmuseum.co.uk

Growing Underground operates 33m below Clapham High Street in the former deep air raid shelter in tunnels just above the Northern Line. Formerly used for archives storage, the tunnels are now used for hydroponic growing of herbs and salad products for the restaurant trade. They offer occasional tours, lasting 75 minutes, for between £32 and £55 a head, usual start time 6 pm. All enquiries to tours@growing-underground.com

Camberwell Station Road

Just beyond Myatt's Fields Park, this road runs between Denmark Road and Camberwell New Road. The station itself was closed during the First World War, as much because of competition from motor bus services as from wartime pressures. The disused booking office is across the road from the SE5/SE24 sorting office, and there are still two busy bus garages close by. The Camberwell Society and the SE5 Forum continue to campaign for re-opening the station, buoyed by their past successes in encouraging improvements to Denmark Hill Station.

In the meantime, Southwark Council obtained some finance from the Mayor for street improvements, with the emphasis on safer conditions for cyclists and pedestrians. At present there is no footway on the station side,

and the road is congested with parked cars, either awaiting repairs or belonging to local workers. Initial ideas were displayed for comments on 4th December, but resources are unlikely to be enough for the whole length of the road, so the Lambeth end may miss out. One concern is that no provision was included for a drop-off/ collection space in the event of the station being re-opened.

Comments or enquiries to CSR@southwark.gov.uk

London Interiors at Morley College

Among their short courses is London Interiors on Wednesdays between 23 February and 30 March. From Tudor dwellings to Modernist masterpieces, London is home to a wide variety of interiors, and the great houses of the metropolis are marvels of architecture and design. Many have art collections and extraordinary stories, and this course features their owners, occupants, artists and architects.

Morley course ref. W21HMSH05A, see their website, www.morleycollege.ac.uk/courses or enquiries to caryle1948@gmail.com

Join the London Society

If you are interested in the wider London context, the London Society hosts regular talks, visits and guided walks. If you join before 20 January, you get the first 3 months membership for free, and a free ticket to any of their upcoming webinars. Thereafter the standard member fee of £10 a quarter applies.

For programme highlights, see www.londonsociety.org.uk or to sign up, see <https://thelondonsociety.wildapricot.org/joinforonepound>

Archaeology in Southwark

The Lambeth & Southwark Archaeological Society normally meets at 106 The Cut SE1, across the road from The Old Vic. Their January and February meetings have been cancelled due to Covid, but monthly in-person meetings should resume from Tuesday 8th March, open from 7 pm for a 7-30 pm start. Coincidentally, the next 3 talks will all be on different aspects of Southwark archaeology.

Notes and News

News from Art4Space

This creative arts learning hub, at 31 Jeffreys Road, SW4 6QU, recently totalled up their outputs over the past year. They delivered:

- 6 accredited training courses for more than 50 vulnerable adults.
- 50 volunteer sessions, involving more than 40 adults.
- Worked in 9 schools, reaching out to over 2000 pupils.
- Enabled 80 therapeutic art sessions, for 15 vulnerable adults.
- Delivered 6 community art projects, for more than 160 children and adults.
- Provided 24 holiday art workshops for over 550 Lambeth children and young people.
- Hosted 36 online sessions, reaching over 150 children and adults.
- Facilitated 4 staff awaydays for over 100 staff.
- Delivered 40 mosaic evening classes, for more than 100 adults.
- Delivered 6 Creative Culture Club courses, for more than 50 vulnerable children.

There may be a couple of places left on two courses about to start:

Creative Remedies is a textile project for over-55s, on Wednesdays for 10 weeks, from 19 January to 30 March, NOCN accredited.

Creative Community Champions is another 10-week course on Fridays from 21 January until 1st April (except 18 February). This will be a collective ceramics project for out-of-work or low-income Lambeth residents.

Mosaic classes continue on Tuesday evenings 6-30 to 9 pm, on a drop-in basis or sign up to a 5 or 10 week course – call Julie on 07 816 386 270 or e-mail:

jewels@art4space.co.uk

Community Food Resources

Lambeth Larder have been active in updating their website to share information, not only on local food resources, but also on wider support services and benefits advice for those who are finding life a struggle. Please share widely:

<http://lambethlarder.org>

Lambeth Library services

Lambeth's libraries remain open, and it is not necessary to make an appointment for use of a PC or study space, or for borrowing books. However, you should still wear a mask if possible, follow social distancing measures and use the hand sanitisers provided.

In view of the high number of Covid infections over the past month, most in-person events are suspended for the time being, but the situation is being reviewed weekly. In the meantime, various on-line events continue.

Funding for research into art history and architecture

The Paul Mellon Centre offers a number of grants, fellowships and event support grants to encourage research and publications covering art and architecture in Britain. Events can include lectures, exhibitions, conferences and on-line events. The deadline for applications for most of the Spring 2022 batch is 31 January, but 3 further fellowships under its New Narratives programme have a closing date of 28 February. Further details on their website at

<https://paulmelloncentre.ac.uk/fellowships-and-grants>

Stockwell Park Community Trust

Since September, the Community Trust has been on the **Nextdoor** website. Keep updated for things to do, events, workshops, volunteering opportunities and hiring space at the Community Centre – 21 Aytoun Place SW9 0TE. See the web link:

<https://nextdoor.co.uk/pages/the-community-trust/recommend/>

The Great British Garden Festival

This is an umbrella for all manner of garden-based events around the country through 2022. To check what's coming up, see www.greatbritishgardenfestival.org.uk

Closer to home, **Incredible Edible Lambeth** will have their AGM and Seed Swap at the Garden Museum on Saturday 12 February at 12 noon.